



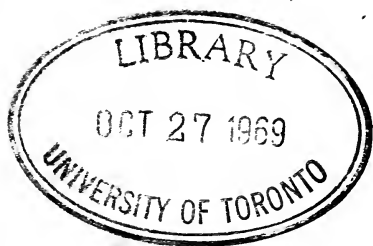
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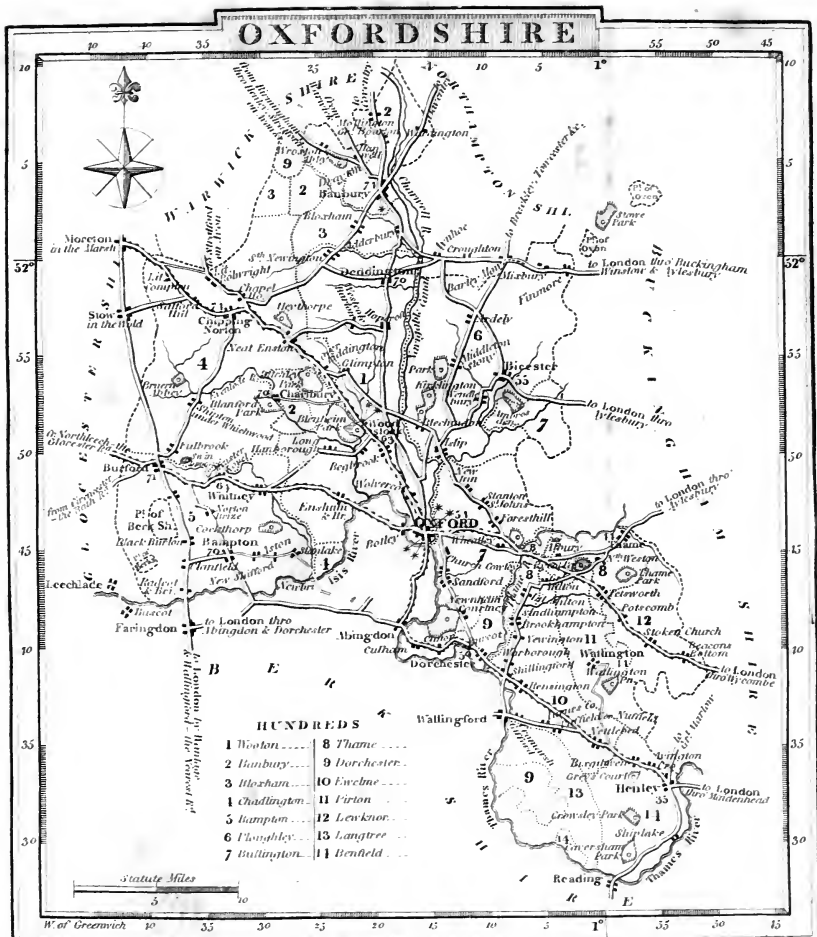
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OXFORDSHIRE



The City is denoted by red, and the respective Hundreds of the County, by different Colours, which distinctions are peculiar to the superior Edition.

A
TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
COUNTY OF OXFORD;

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Minerals,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Fisheries,	Curiosities,
Towns,	Manufactures,	Antiquities,
Roads,	Trade,	Natural
Rivers,	Commerce,	History,

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, &c.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,

*The Direct and Principal Cross Roads,
Distances of Stages, Inns, and
Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats;*

ALSO,

A LIST OF THE MARKETS AND FAIRS,

And an Index Table,

Exhibiting at One View, the Distances of all the Towns from London,
and of Towns from each other :

The whole forming

A COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

Illustrated with a

MAP OF THE COUNTY.

London :

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late G. Cooke,

FOR

SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-RROW.

SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS



G. SIDNEY, Printer,
Northumberland Street, Strand.

ROAD

FROM LONDON TO OXFORD.

The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by R and L.

Kensington Gravel Pits	}	—	1½	Through Kensington Gravel Pits on R, are — Davidson, Esq. and Mrs. Lovekins. On L, Holland-house, Lord Holland; opposite the second mile-stone on R, Norland-house, H. Drummond, Esq.
Shepherd's Bush		1½	3	Just beyond the fourth mile-stone on R, Lady Strange's. Inn—White Horse.
Acton — —		1¾	4¾	Just before on L, Bury-mead-lodge, J. Acres, Esq.; at Acton, Heathfield-lodge, J. Winter, Esq.; beyond, on R, Bank-house, Mrs. Payne.
Ealing Common		1	5¾	At the further end of the Common, on R, Castlebear-hill, — Cocker, Esq.; and seat of the late Duke of Kent.
Ealing Church		¾	6½	
Old Hats —		1	7½	On L, Osterley-park, Earl of Jersey.
Hanwell —		½	8	Hanwell-park, Countess de Salis, R, and a white house, J. Gordon, Esq.

On L a T. R. to Brentford.			
Southall — —	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	Southall-park, Rev. Dr. Collins, L. Inn—Red Lion.
Cross the Grand Junction Canal, and a little fur- ther the old R.			
Hayes — —	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	Hillingdon-heath, at Little London, De Sallis, Esq.; behind is Drayton, F. De Burgh, Esq.
Cross Hillingdon Heath to			
Hillingdon —	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	At Little Hillingdon, Hillingdon-house, —Cox, Esq.
UXBRIDGE —	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{3}{4}$	Belmont-house, T. Har- ris, Esq. R; and the Mount, Sir Charles Ha- milton, Bart. On the R of 16th mile-stone, Hare- field-place, Mrs. Parker; beyond, Denham-court, R. Thompson, Esq.; a little further, Denham- place, Mrs. Way.
Cross the Colne R. and Grand Junc- tion Canal.			
Red Hill —	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	Top of the Hill, Den- ham-mount, —— Snell, Esq.; on R, Oak-end, R. Sewell, Esq.
At the 18th mile- stone a T. R. to Amersham and Aylesbury.			
Tatling End —	1	18	
Gerard's Cross	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	19 $\frac{3}{4}$	Bulstrode, Duke of So- merset, L. Inn—the White Hart.
BEACONSFIELD —	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	Near on R. Wilton- park, J. Du Pré, Esq.; beyond, on L, Great-hall- barn, the ancient seat of Waller, the Poet. The pleasure-grounds to

			which are grand and beautiful, Rev. Edward Waller.
			<i>Inn</i> —the King's Head.
Holspur Heath	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$24\frac{1}{2}$	
Loudwater —	$1\frac{1}{2}$	26	
Wycombe Marsh	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$27\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Inn</i> —Red Lion.
HIGH WYCOMBE	1	28	On L, Wycombe-abbey, Lord Carrington; at the top of the Hill is West Wycombe-church, on the tower of which is a ball that will contain twelve people, and may be seen beyond Beaconsfield.
On R a T. R. to Amersham, and on L to Great Marlow.			
West Wycombe	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$31\frac{1}{2}$	
Ham Farm —	$\frac{3}{4}$	$32\frac{1}{4}$	
A little before Stoken Church a T. R. to Great Marlow.			
Stoken Church, } Oxon	4	36	One mile on L, is Wormsley, J. Fane, Esq. From Stoken Church-hill see on R, in the bottom, Aston Rowant, P. Wycomb, Esq.; and on L, Lewknor-grove, Mrs. Davis.
Postcombe —	$3\frac{1}{4}$	40	$2\frac{1}{2}$ miles on L of the 37th mile-stone is Sherburn-castle, Earl of Macclesfield; and from the 41st mile-stone, see on L, Wheatfield-house, Lord Chas. Spencer; and Adwell-place, Mrs. Jones.
On R a T. R. to Thame.			
Tetsworth —	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$42\frac{1}{2}$	Swan Inn; about one mile and a half on R, is Thame-park, Miss Wickham.

Hutt — —	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	Waterstock, ———
On R, a T. R. to Thame, on L to Wallingford, 3 miles from Hutt cross the Thame R.			Ashurst, Esq.
Wheatley —	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{4}$	Near, on R, Water-
On L the old Road to Oxford over Shotover Hill, and about 1 mile further on R a T. R. to Chip- ping Norton.			perry, H. Curzon, Esq.; see on L, Cuddesdon, the palace of the Bishop of Oxford; on R of Wheat- ley is Holton-park, E. Biscoe, Esq.; one mile from ditto, on L, is Shot- over, T. Schutz, Esq.
Forest Hill —	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	50	
Headington —	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	52 $\frac{1}{4}$	Headington-house, Mrs. Jones.
Headington Hill On L the old Road to Wheatley over Shotover Hill.	1	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	
St. Clements —	$\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{3}{4}$	
On L a T. R. to Henley cross the Charwell R. to			
OXFORD —	$\frac{3}{4}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	

A LIST

OF THE

PRINCIPAL TOWNS

IN THE

COUNTY OF OXFORD,

With their distance from London, Markets, Number of Houses and Inhabitants, with the time of the arrival and departure of the Post.

Towns.	D.	Mark.	Hos.	Inha- bits.	Post arrives	Post departs.
Bampton	70	..	251	1232		
Banbury	75	Thurs.	582	2841	9 M.	5 Aft.
Bicester	58	Friday	424	2156	8 M.	6 Aft.
Burford	73	Satur.	239	1342	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ M.	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ Aft.
Charlbury	67	Friday	212	1074		
Chipping Norton	73	..	375	1975	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ M.	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ Aft.
Deddington	69	Satur.	252	1296	8 M.	5 Aft.
Dorchester	52	Tues.	148	754	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ Af.	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ M.
Henley	35	Thurs.	522	3117	12 $\frac{3}{4}$ M.	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ M.
Hook Norton	74	..	288	1129		
Nettlebed	40	..	101	456	12 Nt.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ M.
Oxford	55	W.& S.	1992	12931	3 M.	11 Aft.
Stokenchurch	36	..	185	888	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ M.	2 M.
Thame	46	Tues.	457	1328	7 M.	7 Aft.
Watlington	45	Satur.	234	1150		
Wheatley	48	..	160	764	3 M.	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ M.
Witney	69	Thurs.	520	2722	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ M.	10 $\frac{1}{4}$ Aft.
Woodstock	62	Tues.	220	1419	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ M.	8 Aft.

The price of postage for a single letter varies from 3d. to 8d. throughout the county.

INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF OXFORD.

<i>Bounded by</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Contains</i>	<i>Sends to Parliament.</i>	<i>Produce and Manufactures.</i>
Warwickshire and Northamptonshire on the north.	In length about 48 miles.	14 Hundreds.	9 Members viz.	<p>The produce is chiefly like that in most midland farming counties. Much butter and cheese is made, and numerous calves reared for the London market, which it also supplies with great quantities of corn and malt.</p> <p>The principal manufactures are those of blankets at Witney, and gloves and polished steel at Woodstock. The employment of the poorer class is lace making and spinning.</p>
Buckinghamshire on the east.	In breadth 26 miles.	1 City and Unversity.	2 for the county.	
Berkshire on the south.	In circumference about 130 miles.	2 Boroughs.	2 for the city.	
		10 Market-towns.	2 for the University.	
And on the west by Gloucestershire.		207 Parishes.	2 for Woodstock.	
		22,702 houses.	1 for Banbury.	
		119,191 Inhabitants		
		450,000 Acres.		

This County is comprised within the diocese of Oxford, and province of Canterbury.

AN ITINERARY

OF ALL

THE DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS

IN

OXFORDSHIRE.

In which are included the STAGES, INNS, and
GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the figures that follow show the Distance from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L.

JOURNEY FROM CLAYDON TO OXFORD, THROUGH BANBURY AND DEDDINGTON.

CLAYDON to			
Mollington	2	2	
Little Bourton	2	4	
BANBURY	2½	6½	Inns—Red Lion, White Li-
At Banbury on			on. About two miles to
R a T. R. to Chip-			the R Wroxton Abbey,
ping Norton; on			Earl of Guildford.
L to Buckingham			
Weeping Cross	2	8½	
Adderbury	1	10	Seat of Mrs. Wilkinson.
At Adderbury			
on L a T. R. to			
Buckingham.			
DEDDINGTON	3	13	Inns—King's Arms and
At Deddington			Three Tuns.
on R a T. R. to			At North Aston is a seat of
Chipping Norton,			Oldfield Bowles, esq. L;
on L to Bucking-			beyond which, at Middle
ham.			Aston, is the seat of F.
			Page, esq. L; and a little
			farther, Sir Clement Cot-
			terell Dormer, bart. L.

Hopcroft's Holt	4	17	
<i>At Hopcroft's Holt on R a T. R. to Westcott Barton. On L to Bicester.</i>			
Sturdis Castle	3½	20½	<i>Tackley Park, Sir J. W. S. Gardiner, L. Further on is Kirtlington Park, Sir H. W. Dashwood, bart.; beyond which is Blechington Park, Arthur Annesley, esq.</i>
<i>Cross the London Road.</i>			
<i>Cross the Oxford Canal.</i>			
Kidlington Green	4	24½	<i>At Woodstock, Blenheim Park, Duke of Marlborough, R.</i>
OXFORD	4½	29	<i>Inns—Angel, King's Arms, Roe Buck, and Star.</i>

OXFORD TO CAVERSHAM,

THROUGH HENLEY.

OXFORD to Littlemore	2½	2½	
Sandford	¾	3¼	
Nuneham Courtenay	2	5¼	<i>The seat of the Earl of Harcourt, R.</i>
<i>Between Nuneham Courtenay & Dorchester on R a T. R. to Abingdon.</i>			
Dorchester	3½	8¾	<i>Baldon House, Lady Wiltoughby.</i>
<i>Cross the Thame River.</i>			
Shillingford	1¾	10½	<i>On L in the Road to Thame and Aylesbury, Newington House, G. White, esq.</i>
<i>On L a T. R. to Aylesbury; on R to Reading.</i>			

Bensington	1½	12	Brightwell House, W. L. Stone, esq. L.
— — —	—	—	Mongwell House, Bishop of Durham, R.
Beggar's Bush	2	14	
Nuffield Heath	2½	16½	Wallington Park, John Tilson, esq. L.
At Nuffield Heath on R a T. R. to Wallingford.			
Nettlebed	1½	18	
Bix	1¼	19¼	Gray's Court, Lady Stapleton, R; and about three miles on L, Stonor Castle, T. Stonor, esq.
Assington Cross	¾	20	
HENLEY	2	22	Inns—Bell, Red Lion, and White Hart. About one mile from Henley, Park Place, Earl of Malmesbury, R.
At Henley on R a T. R. to Reading; on L to Great Marlow.			
— — —	—	—	Harpden Court, T. Hall, esq. R
Shiplake	2¾	24¾	Lord Mark Kerr.
Caversham	4¼	29	Caversham Park, Major C. Marsac, R.

BANBURY TO RADCOT BRIDGE,

THROUGH CHIPPING NORTON AND BURFORD.

BANBURY to			Inns—Red Lion, and White Lion.
At Banbury on L a T. R. to Buckingham; on R to Warwick.			About three miles on L Warkworth Castle, F. Eyre, esq.; and about the same distance on R Wroxtton Abbey, Earl of Guilford.
Bloxham	3	3	

			<i>About two miles to the R Broughton Castle, Lord Say and Sele.</i>
South Newington	1½	4½	
<i>About two miles from South Newington on L a T. R. to Deddington.</i>			
Pumphery Castle	3¼	7½	<i>Swarford Park, James Smith Barry, esq. R.</i>
<i>About two miles from Pumphery Castle on R a T. R. to Shipston, on L to Woodstock.</i>			
— — —	—	—	<i>Heythorp, Earl of Shrewsbury, L.</i>
CHIPPING NORTON	4½	12	<i>Inn—White Hart.</i>
<i>At Chipping Norton, on R a T. R. to Morton-in-the-Marsh.</i>			
Shipton Underwood	7	19	<i>Sir — Reade, bart.</i>
Fullbrook	3	22	<i>Swinbrock, R. Fettiplace, esq. L.</i>
<i>At Fullbrook, on R a T. R. to Stowe on the Wold. Cross the Windrush River.</i>			
BURFORD	1	23	<i>Inns—Bull, and George. At Burford, the Priory, J. Lenthall, esq.</i>
<i>At Burford, on L a T. R. to Bampton.</i>			
Blackbourton	5	28	
Clanfield		29½	
<i>At Clanfield, on L a T. R. to Bampton.</i>			

Radcot	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$30\frac{3}{4}$
Radcot Bridge	$\frac{1}{2}$	$31\frac{1}{4}$
<i>Cross the River</i>		
<i>Isis, and enter</i>		
<i>Berkshire.</i>		

LITTLE ROLLEWRIGHT TO STOKEN CHURCH,

THROUGH WOODSTOCK AND OXFORD.

Little Rollewright to Chapel-house	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	<i>H. Dawkins, esq. R.</i>
<i>At Chapel-house</i>			
<i>on L a T. R. to</i>			
<i>Banbury, quarter</i>			
<i>of a mile beyond on</i>			
<i>R to Chipping</i>			
<i>Norton.</i>			
— — — — —			<i>Heythorpe, Earl of Shrews-</i>
			<i>bury, L.</i>
Enstone	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{1}{4}$	<i>At Enstone, some curious</i>
			<i>water-works.</i>
Kiddington	$2\frac{3}{4}$	9	<i>Glympton Park, L. Wheate,</i>
<i>At Kiddington</i>			<i>esq. L; Ditchley Park,</i>
<i>on L a T. R. to</i>			<i>Lord Dillon.</i>
<i>Wheatley Bridge.</i>			
<i>Two miles beyond</i>			
<i>Kiddington on R</i>			
<i>a T.R. to Whitney.</i>			
WOODSTOCK	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Inns—Bear, and Marlbo-</i>
			<i>rough Arms.</i>
			<i>Blenheim House and Park,</i>
			<i>Duke of Marlborough.</i>
Begbrook	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{3}{4}$	
Yarnton	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{4}$	
<i>Cross the Oxford</i>			
<i>Canal.</i>			
Wolvercot	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$18\frac{3}{4}$	

OXFORD	2½	21½	Inns—Angel, King's Arms, Roe Buck, and Star.
Cross the River Charwell.			
On R a T. R. to Henley.			
St. Clement's	½	21¾	
Beyond St. Cle- ment's on L a T.			
R. to Wheatley, by Shotover Hill.			
Headington	1½	23¼	Headington House, Mrs. Jones
Wheatley	3½	26¾	Shotover House, G. Schutz, esq. R.
Wheatley Bridge	1	27¾	Holton House and Park, Edmund Biscoe, esq. L.
Near Wheatley Bridge on L, a T. R. to Islip.			
Cross the Thame River.			
The Three Pige- ons	2¾	30½	Hon. Andrew Foley, R.
At the Three Pigeons on R a T.			
R. to Walling- ford, on L to Thame.			
— — —	—	—	Sir Wm. H. Ashurst, knt. L.
Tetsworth	2½	33	
Postcombe	1¾	34¾	Lord Charles Spencer, R.
A little beyond Postcombe, on L a T. R. to Thame.			On L in the road to Thame, Thame Park, Miss Wickham.
— — —	—	—	Rowant Aston, General
Stoken Church	4¾	39	Calland, L. Sherborne Castle, Earl of Maccles- field, R. Wormsley, J. Fane, esq. R.
Near Stoken Church, on R a T. R. to Marlow.			

COTESFORD TO OXFORD,

THROUGH MIDDLETON STONEY.

Cotesford to Ardley	4	4	
<i>Between Cotes- ford and Ardley, on R a T. R. to Adderbury; on L to Bicester.</i>			
Middleton Stoney	2½	6½	Middleton Park, Earl of Jersey, R.
<i>At Middleton to Stoney, on R a T. R. to Wescott Barton; on L to Bicester.</i>			
Weston-on-the- Green	3	9½	Kirtlington Park, Sir Hen. Dashwood, bart. R.
<i>On L a T. R. to Bicester, and about one mile and a half farther on R a T. R. to Wotton, and on L to Islip.</i>			Blechington Park, A. An- nesley, esq. R.
Gosford Bridge	4	13½	
<i>Cross the Char- well River.</i>			
Kidlington Turn- pike	2	15½	
OXFORD	3	18½	

BURFORD TO EVERSHAM,

THROUGH WITNEY.

BURFORD to Witney	7	7	John Lenthall, esq. L. Swin- brook, A. Fettiplace, esq. L.
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Between Bur-
ford and Witney
on R a T. R. to
Abingdon.

Cross the River
Windrush.

Newland Turn-
pike

At Newland
Turnpike on L a
T. R. to Wood-
stock.

Eynsham

$\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $\frac{1}{2}$

5 12 $\frac{1}{2}$

Eynsham Hall, Col. Parker,
L.

END OF THE ITINERARY.

FAIRS IN OXFORDSHIRE.

Bampton.—March 26, and Aug. 26, horses and toys.

Banbury.—Thursday after 18 Jan. horses, cows, and sheep; first Thursday in Lent, ditto, and fish; second Thursday before Easter, cattle and sheep; Ascension day, Thursday in Trinity week, Aug. 13, horses, cows, and sheep; Thursday after Old Michaelmas day, hogs and cheese, and hiring servants; Oct. 30, second Thursday before Christmas, cheese, hops, and cattle.

Bicester.—Friday in Easter week, Whit-monday, first Friday in June, Aug. 5, December 17, for horses, cows, sheep, pigs, wool, toys, &c.; Friday after Old St. Michael, Oct. 10, for hiring servants.

Binford.—Last Saturday in April.

Burford.—Last Saturday in April, cattle and sheep; July 5, horses, sheep, cows, and small ware; September 25, cheese and toys.

Charlbury.—January 1, second Friday in Lent, second Friday after May 12, except it falls on a Friday, and then the Friday following, cattle of all kinds; October 10, cheese, and all sorts of cattle.

Chipping Norton.—March 7, May 6, last Friday in May, July 18, September 4, October 3, statute; November 8, last Friday in November, horses, cows, sheep, lambs, leather, and cheese.

Deddington.—August 21, horses and cows; Saturday after Old St. Michael, October 10, statute fair; November 22, horses, cows, and swine.

Dorchester.—Easter Tuesday, for pleasure.

Henley.—March 7, chiefly horses; Holy Thursday, sheep; Thursday after Trinity Sunday,

horses, &c.; Thursday se'nnight before Oct. 10, cheese.

Hook-Norton.—Second Tuesday after May 12; November 28, horses & cows.

Nettlebed.—Monday after St. Luke, October 18; Tuesday se'nnight after Whitsuntide, small fairs, chiefly toys.

Oxford.—May 3, Monday after St. Giles; September 1, and Thursday before New Michaelmas, for toys, and small ware.

Stokenchurch.—July 10, horses.

Thame.—Easter Tuesday, cattle of all sorts; Old Michaelmas, October 10, horses, fat hogs, and hiring servants.

Watlington.—April 5, Saturday before October 10, cattle and hiring servants.

Wheatley.—September 29, cattle of all sorts, and hiring servants.

Witney.—Thursday in Easter week, cattle of all sorts; April 5, June 29, Thursday after July 9, August 24, Thursday following the Sunday after Sept. 8, Thursday before Oct. 10, November 23, and Thursday after Dec. 1, for cattle and cheese.

Woodcot, near Henley.—August 2, Monday after Nov. 11, sheep, &c.

Woodstock.—April 5, cheese, cattle, and sheep; Tuesday in Whitsun week, horses, hardware, pleasure, &c.; August 2, cherries, &c.; October 2, a great fair for cheese; Tuesday after November 1, cattle, sheep, and cheese; December 17; fat hogs and other cattle, second Tuesday after Candlemas-day, a very large market for cattle.

TITLES

CONFERRED BY THE COUNTY.

Oxford, the county town, gives the title of Earl to the Harley family.—*Woodstock* that of Viscount to

the Bentinck family.—*Burford* that of Earl to the Beauclerks.—*Henley* that of Baron to the Eden family; *Ricot* the same to the Berties.—*Stanton Harcourt*, gives the title of Earl, Viscount, and Baron, to the Harcourts, and *Nuneham* gives the title of Viscount to the same family.—*Heddington* that of Baron to the Beauclerks.—*Nettlebed* the same to the Noels, and *Dorchester* the same title to the Carletons.

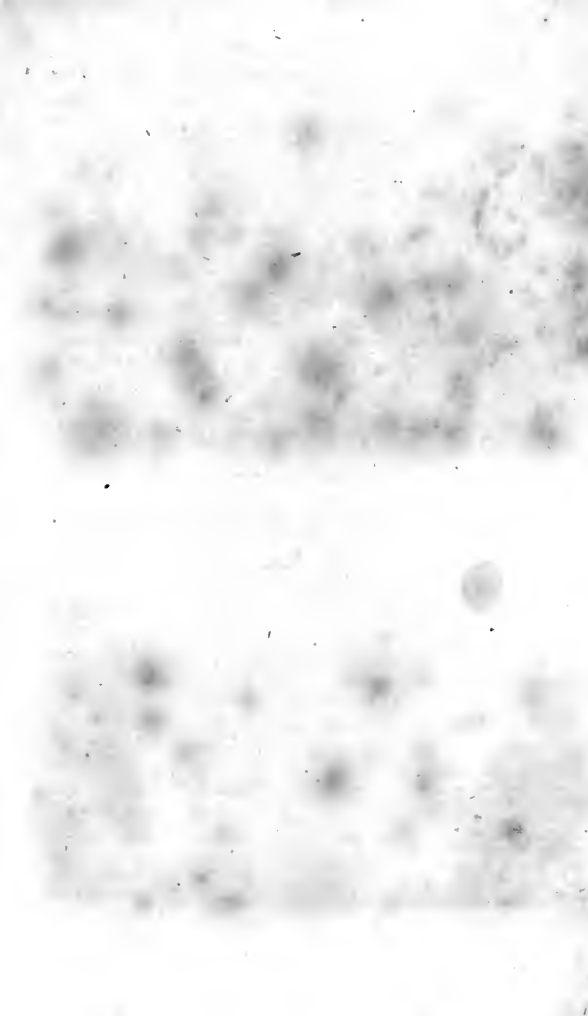
THE QUARTER SESSIONS.

The county Assize, and the different Sessions for the city; are held at the city of Oxford, on January 11—April 11—July 11—October 17, as are Court Leets. The petty sessions are held at Watlington.

Hilary Term begins Jan. 14, ends on Saturday before Palm Sunday. *Easter Term* begins on Wednesday after Low Sunday, ends on Thursday before Whitsun-day. *Act Term* begins on Wednesday after Trinity Sunday, ends on Saturday after Act Sunday. *Michaelmas Term* begins Oct. 10, ends Dec. 17.

LIST OF BANKERS IN THE COUNTY.

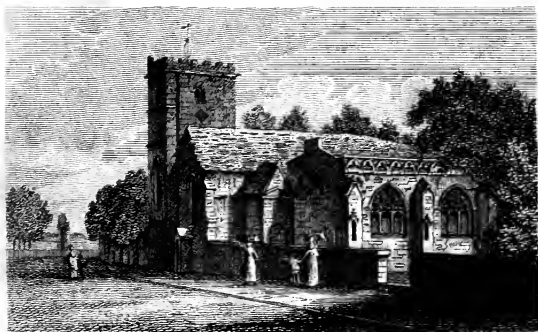
At Banbury and Shipstone, Thomas Tim, and Thomas Cobb; draw in London upon Williams and Co.—At Bicester, Tubb and Co.; draw in London upon Masterman and Co.—At Chipping Norton, Whitehead and Co.; draw in London upon Glyn and Co.—At Oxford and Woodstock, Cox, Morrell, and Co.; draw in London upon Masterman and Co.—Oxford, (old Bank), Fletcher, Parsons, and Co.; draw in London upon Hammersleys and Co.—Oxford University, Walker, Lock, and Co.; draw in London upon Willis and Co.—Oxford, Tubb and Co.; draw in London upon Masterman and Co.—At Witney, Clench and Son; draw in London upon Masterman and Co.



OXFORDSHIRE



Henley Bridge.



St. Mary Magdalene Church.

OXFORDSHIRE



Oxford Cathedral.



Nunham Courtney.



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF OXFORD.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

OXFORD is an inland county, bounded on the north by Warwickshire and Northamptonshire ; on the east by Buckinghamshire, on the south by Berkshire, and on the west by Gloucestershire. The river Cherwell separates Oxfordshire from Northamptonshire on the N. E. While the county of Warwick lies contiguous to the N. W. ; Oxfordshire is of a very irregular figure ; near the centre of the county of the city of Oxford it is not more than seven miles across, yet in the more northern part, at no great distance, its diameter is thirty-eight miles. Proceeding northward, it assumes the resemblance of a cone, and terminates at what is called the Three Shire Stone, in a complete point or apex.

Its circumference is about 130 miles, containing about 450,000 acres of land.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

The air is reckoned as healthy as that of any other county in England, for the soil, which is naturally dry, being free from bogs, fens, and stagnant waters, and abounding with quick limpid streams, necessarily renders the air clear and wholesome. The county is cold upon, and near the Chiltern Hills, and Mr. Young, as an Agriculturist, describes this county as containing three distinctions of soil.

NAME AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

This county receives its name from the city of Oxford, generally supposed to have been derived from the Saxon word *Oxenford*, a ford or passage for oxen over the river here. Some writers, however, have supposed the name of the city was *Ousford*, a ford over the Ous. Oxfordshire was anciently inhabited by the Dobune ; but on the invasion of Britain by the Romans, it became a part of the pro-

vince termed *Britannia Prima*. During the Hephtharchy it belonged to Mercia, and suffered greatly from the Danes. By William the Norman it was divided among his Barons.

POPULATION.

According to the returns of 1811, there were 22,000 inhabited houses, 59,132 males, and 60,059 females, making a total of 119,191 persons.

Oxfordshire returns nine members to Parliament; viz. two for the county, two for the university, two for Woodstock, and one for Banbury.

ROADS.

The roads in Oxfordshire within the last half century, have been improved beyond all precedent. The two great turnpikes that crossed the county by Witney and Chipping Norton, by Henley and Wycombe, were formerly repaired with stones as large as they could be brought from the quarry, and when broken left so rough as to be calculated for dislocation rather than use. The cross roads were impassable without great danger. But a noble change has taken place, by turnpikes which cross the country in every direction, so that when you are at one town you have a turnpike road to every other town. The parish roads are also much improved; the turnpikes very good, and where gravel is to be had, excellent.

RIVERS.

The rivers of Oxfordshire form the most pleasing feature; natural historians have stated their number at not less than threescore and ten, and have not exaggerated. Each valley of length has its stream, and no district in England is better watered than this. The Thame, the Isis, the Charwell, the Evenlode, and Windrush, among these claim the first rank; but the great pride of the country is, that confluence of the former two which constitute the river Thames. According to Mr. Skrine, after the Colne and Lech have added their tributary forces,

the navigation of this river under the name of Isis properly commences: but it is understood to be long very imperfect from its winding course and its prevailing shallows. The county which it first traverses between Oxford and Berks, is by no means pleasant, as it pursues its way almost unseen in the midst of a plain, first towards the east and afterwards inclining to the north. In this level the Windrush joins it from Burford and Witney; and the more pleasant stream of the Evenlode, pursuing nearly the same direction from the north west, descends from Whichwood Forest, and the great riding of Charlbury, united at last with a smaller stream which forms the great lake in Woodstock park. The Isis thus augmented turns suddenly to the south, washing the ruined walls of Godstow Nunnery. The vale now expands into a spacious amphitheatre, bounded by some striking hills, in the centre of which the majestic towers, domes, and spheres of Oxford, burst upon the sight, appearing proudly ranged behind the thick shade of the venerable groves. Here the Isis divides itself into various small channels as it traverses the meadows of Witham, leaving Oxford on the left, and passing through several handsome stone bridges connected by a grand causeway, which forms its principal approach from the west. These streams soon re-uniting, the river turns round the city towards the north-east, and crossed by an ancient stone bridge, glides beautifully through the enamelled and ornamented meads of Christ Church. A superb walk of elms beneath this spacious college fronts its meadow, over the deep foliage of which the Gothic buildings of Christ church appear in stately pride, as they display themselves gradually with a succession of all the numerous towers of the University, in the descent of the Isis. A little lower it is joined by the Charwell, flowing from the north of Banbury, and passing on the eastern side of Oxford through the arches of the magnificent bridge of Magdalen.

The country becomes now for a while more enclosed, and the numerous plantations surrounding Lord Harcourt's noble seat of Nuneham, are finely opposed by the thick woods of Bagley, in Berkshire. The Chiltern Hills, occupy all along the back-ground at a distance, forming a waving line towards the south, sometimes clothed with thick woods of beech, and at others protruding their chalky sides into the plain. The windings of the river through this great level are frequent, but its direction is mostly southward, a little inclined to the east as it passes through the long straggling town of Dorchester. Somewhat below this, the Thame advances from the north-east to meet it, passing through the ancient bridges of Wheatley and Dorchester, and joining the Isis a little above the point, where the more modern pile of Shillingford bridge crosses both combined. At this junction the Thames first took its name. The Isis, Dr. Sibthorpe observes, may be considered rather as a poetical than a strict appellation, for that part of the river Thames which runs near Oxford. In the old MSS. grants from the crown, the river here spoken of under the title of Isis, is positively called the Thames, and he had in his possession a very ancient grant from the Crown of the Manor of Sutton, to the famous Roger Mortimer, giving him a right of fishery in the river Thames, and describing its boundaries by the names which they have yet retained in the parish of Stanton Harcourt.

After it quits Wallingford, the scenery assumes a thousand fresh graces of aspect. The river now forms an indented valley through the range of the Cotteswold hills, which losing insensibly their downish character, become at last adorned with most of the varied beauties of nature and art. High beech woods cover their sides and summits, while rich meadows attend the descent of the river. Towns and villages are sprinkled about in all directions, and magnificent seats appear on the heights that over-

hang the Oxfordshire and Berkshire banks. The valley formed by the Thames, near Reading, extends into a rich plain, full of verdure, woods, and population. The Kennet here joins its tributary waters, and somewhat lower the Loddon brings a further increase. The Thames thus augmented, swells into a majestic river full of commercial craft, and glides in a broad silver mirror through the plain, till it becomes engulfed amidst the fine chain of hills surrounding Henley. A more beautifully marked country than this cannot easily be formed by the most romantic fancy; and nature has placed this British paradise within forty miles of the capital of our country, to decorate the banks of its principal river. The Thames throughout divides the counties of Oxford and Buckingham from Berkshire. Among the splendid seats of our nobility that of Lord Malmesbury bears a strong pre-eminence, covering several bold hills with its plantations. Immediately below, the handsome town of Henley covers the Oxfordshire banks, whose lofty flint tower and elegant stone bridge form distinguished objects from which ever side they are viewed. The Thames afterwards flowing between Middlesex and Surrey, and by Essex and Kent, forms a junction with the Medway at the Nore, where both combined are lost in the German Ocean.

The Charwell rises in Northamptonshire, and enters Oxford near Claydon, a village on the northern extremity of the county; whence it runs to the south by Banbury, and falls into the Thames or Isis, a little below Oxford.

The Evenlode rises in the north-east part of Worcestershire, near a town of its own name, not far from Stowe-in-the-Wold a market-town in Gloucestershire; and, running south-east, enters Oxfordshire, not far from the shire-stones; and passing by Charlbury, falls into the Thames, about four miles above Oxford.

The Windrush rises in Coteswold Hills, in Gloucestershire, and running south-east enters Oxford-

shire not far from Burford, and passing Witney, falls into the Thames at Northmoor, five miles to the west of Oxford.

The Thame rises near Tring in Hertfordshire, and crossing Buckinghamshire touches the borders of Oxfordshire at Thame, as before observed.

FISHING.

The edible fish produced by the Thames, while it remains with Oxfordshire, are chiefly pike, chubb, barbel, perch, eels, roach, dace, and gudgeons. Salmon are sometimes found as straggling visitors, even in the higher precincts of the river; and Dr. Plott mentions, as a curious native of the Isis, a fish, locally termed the *Pride*, of the long cartilaginous smooth kind, having a mouth cut neither perpendicularly downward, nor transversely, but hollowed as it were between two cheeks, without an under jaw. On the top of its head it has *one*, and on each side *seven* holes, that supply the place of gills. It moves by a winding impulse of its body, without the help of any other fins but those at the tail. The great quantity of the more valuable sort of fish formerly met with in this river is confirmed, by the mention made by this writer of fifteen hundred jacks, besides other fish, taken in the course of two days. The increase of drainage certainly operates in producing a decrease of the fish.

CANALS.

The Birmingham canal is of immense importance to Oxfordshire, immediately connecting London, through Oxford, with Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool, and with the Wednesbury collieries.

This canal commences at Longford, in the northern extremity of Warwickshire, on the edge of the Coventry canal, between Claydon and the three-shire stone, and passing through the villages of Anstey, Brinklow, Newbold, and Hill Morton, enters Northamptonshire, and running near Barby and Braunston, again returns to Warwickshire near Wolthamcote, and passing Lower Shackburg and Wormleighton, enters Oxfordshire near Claydon,

passes Banbury, Alderbury, Somerton, Heyford, Purcell, Shepton in Charwell, Begbrook, Wolver-shott, and joins the Isis at Oxford. In the last 30 miles this canal has a fall of 186 feet.

FARM HOUSES AND COTTAGES.

In the former there is nothing material to distinguish them from those of the neighbouring counties. To the latter there are gardens, and good ones, to nine-tenths of them in the county. Some years since the cottagers had no potatoes; now all have them; formerly they liked cabbage only with their bacon, now the potatoe is adopted. Sir Christopher Willoughby's cottages have not had their rents raised for a century; but about Henley cottagers pay from three to five pounds per annum.

The exertions of the Bishop of Durham, in building cottages, have been highly meritorious. Six pairs of them, raised by his Lordship, have each a very good garden and conveniences for pigs. Two guineas is the rent paid for them, as rent in money is not the object, but to place the cottager in such a state of ease and comfort as shall tend to habits of industry, sobriety, and honesty. Every labourer, employed by the Bishop, is permitted to lodge, after harvest, in the bailiff's hands, 1l. 11s. 6d., and in consequence of his readiness to make this reserve, he is allowed, the following winter, to purchase barley at two shillings a bushel under the market price, or any other product of the farm at a proportionable deduction. But his Lordship has also established a village shop at Mongewell, at which the working people, and all the other poor, may buy whatever they want at a reduced price for ready money. The wives and daughters, also, receive as much flax as they please, which being returned after it is spun into thread, they are paid the full price for spinning it, according to the fineness of the spinning. This is woven into cloth, and sold to the cottagers two-pence a yard lower than the common price. The following good effects are also

enumerated by Mr. Arthur Young as resulting from the attachment of land to cottages. "It has not, in one instance, failed of giving an industrious turn, even to some who were before idle and profligate. Their attention, in nursing up young trees, has been so much beyond what a farmer, intent upon greater objects, can or will bestow, that the value of the orchards is increased to forty shillings per acre on land, which was of less than half the value in its former state. And the poor's rates have, from this cause, fallen to four-pence in the pound, whilst other parishes are assessed from two and six-pence to five shillings in the pound. The stock of some of these cottagers consists of a cow, a yearling heifer, or a mare to breed, a sow and thirty or forty geese. This, therefore, has been the means of bringing a supply of poultry and fruit to the market; of increasing population, and making the land produce double the rent a farmer can afford to give."

Combining these advantages of very light rents, good gardens, plenty of pigs, stocks of bees, (one originally given to each cottage,) and the farm products at an easy price, these families are placed in a situation productive of good morals. None of them require any aid from the parish.

The size of farms varies so much that it is difficult to speak on that head; but they may be considered generally speaking, as less than in most parts of England, and Mr. Young thought them too small to be consistent with good husbandry. In the forest district there are many farms, from 20 to 80l. per ann.; but the average of the rest is from 250l. to 300l. In the rich Thame district, farms do not exceed 300 acres.

LEASES.

Some individuals may be found who grant leases for fourteen, or even for twenty one years; but in general seven years form the extent of the allotted term. In the neighbourhood of Chipping Norton none are

granted, or next to none. The longest is six years, prescribing the six crops; but commonly nothing more than an agreement violable in many cases at six months' notice. Many of the great landholders in all parts of the county, will grant no lease whatever, and in several districts the tenant is happy to avail himself of a permission to cultivate with legal security the four crops usually successive on his land. This system operates prejudicially on the public weal, but it has been presumed, that the day must undoubtedly come, when the Oxfordshire landlord and renter will perceive that the advancement of public benefit is a mutual accommodation to themselves.

TITHES.

These are various in this county: a few Rectors have one in fifteen, and others one in twenty. This arose from different endowments; half the tithe was settled on the Rector, and the other half, perhaps, given to some religious house, and on the suppression of monasteries came into lay-hands. In most of the enclosures about Bicester, one-ninth, and one-fifth, have been given for tithe. The Commissioners fixed the bushels payable by each person according to the quality of the land, and the price is regulated every year on that of Oxford market, at Lady Day and Michaelmas. The usual composition for arable land, may be stated at one-fourth of the rent.

IMPLEMENTS.

Threshing Mills are general in this county; but the fashionable scarefiers and scufflers of London have been tried and exploded. The plough most generally used, is the two-wheeled one, the beam resting on a pretty high fore carriage; and the one-wheeled plough the beam low. The skim coulter is also used, and for certain objects found very useful. The skim plough has also been much admired, for ploughing turnip land for barley, and clover lay for wheat. The threshing mills are generally of great power.

ENCLOSURES.

These have been the capital improvement of the

county; for, proportionably to the extent of it, more land has been taken in, in the course of half a century, than in any other county in England. Though enclosures have doubled rents, the latter are paid with more ease than formerly, and the produce of food for man is greatly increased. Stone walls are used at Wendleburg, and these are made durable against frosts by having a foot thick in the middle laid with mortar or road dust, &c.

In riding over the forest of Whichwood, Mr. Young found many beautiful scenes, particularly where the *nut fair*, is held; a glen by Mr. Dacre's lodge, and others approaching Blandford Park. There are vales also of the finest turf. Several of these scenes want nothing but water to form the most pleasing and finished landscapes. Lord Francis Spencer, whilst ranger, made several roads by way of ridings; but an enclosure, it is thought, would make a large tract of good land productive to the public. The morals of the county too are said to demand it, this vicinity being filled with poachers, deer stealers, thieves, and pilferers, of every kind, so that Oxford gaol would be quite uninhabited, were it not for this fertile source of crimes. The poor rates too in the parishes that surround the forest, and have a right of commonage, are higher than in others under similar circumstances, except in that of being cut off from the forest.

WASTES.

Except the dreary district of Otmoor, and the extensive wilds appertaining to the forest of Whichwood, the waste land of Oxfordshire is comparatively small. The common of Otmoor is situate near Islip, and contains about 4000 acres, the whole of which lie nearly on a level, and are completely inundated in wet seasons. Eight adjoining townships possess a right of commonage on this dismal tract; but as this right is possessed without *stint*, the abuses are very great. The cottager appears to reap the greatest benefit from Otmoor; though he turns out little

except geese; but the coarse aquatic sward of this waste is well suited to the wants of his flock. In the purlieus of Whichwood forest there are extensive tracts of waste ground, the commonage of which is confined by right to horses and sheep. The other commons of this county are chiefly to be found among the Chiltern hills.

CATTLE.

The intelligence relative to cattle in this county is not locally interesting. - It has no breed of its own, nor any peculiar race so prominent as to afford much information that is particularly valuable. Much of the county is arable, and in the very narrow districts, where grass prevails, there is not any thing remarkable in the breed or appearance of the cattle. Many boars are fed for the purpose of making brawn, which, with matting, forms a considerable article of trade at Oxford and other parts of the county.

MANUFACTURES.

Witney, formerly noted for the weaving manufactory, has declined considerably; not one-fourth of the number of people being now employed as formerly were. Add to this, their earnings are very low. However, the spinning jennies, and other machinery, especially the spring looms, being introduced, afforded at least a temporary relief, gave a turn to business, and till the late peace, rendered the place very flourishing; still the low wages precluded the poor of this place from every thing but a very small share in that prosperity which pervaded the kingdom, and so greatly raised the general wages of labour. At Thame a little lace is made, and the polished steel manufactory at Woodstock has been completely out rivalled by the machinery of Birmingham and Sheffield. That of gloves and leather breeches has been more fortunate. The employment of women on the south side of the county is lace making; but in the middle, and northward side, spinning is the general occupation.

LITERATURE AND LEARNED MEN.

Baron Carleton Dudley was born 1573, and died Viscount Dorchester in 1631.—Chillingworth was born at Oxford in 1602. Sir William Davenant the poet was born at Oxford in 1605.—Sir George Etherege, another dramatic writer, was born about 1636, and died in 1683.—Dr. Peter Heylin was born at Burford in 1609, and died in 1662.—Sir John Holt was born in 1642, and died in 1710, his integrity and uprightness as a judge has been long acknowledged by his grateful countrymen.—Dr. John Owen was born at Hadham in 1616; he was Chaplain to Cromwell.—John Philips, author of ‘The Splended Shilling,’ was born at Brampton in 1676.—Dr. Edward Pocock, a learned critic and commentator, was born at Oxford in 1604, and died in 1691.—Anthony Wood, an eminent antiquary and biographer, was born at Oxford in 1632, and died in 1695.

NEWSPAPERS.

Two newspapers, the *Oxford Journal* and the *Oxford Herald*, are published in this city weekly; the first, and older of the two, having been established 64 years. The first newspaper published at Oxford was *Mercurius Rusticus*, which commenced on the 22d of April, 1642. This was succeeded by the *Mercurius Aulicus*, *Mercurius Britannicus*, *Mercurius Pragmaticus*, and *Mercurius Politicus*, the last of which was discontinued about the middle of April, 1660. These were followed by the *Parliamentary Intelligencer*, *Mercurius Publicus*, the *Public Intelligencer*, and the *Oxford Gazette*. The last commenced on the 7th of November, 1665, the King and Queen and the Court being then at Oxford; but when this removed to London, the newspaper in question assumed the name of the *London Gazette*, the first number of which appeared on the 5th of February, 1666.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

This county is divided into fourteen hundreds viz. Bampton, Banbury, Binfield, Bloxam, Bulling-

ton, Chedlington, Dorchester, Ewelme, Langtree, Lewknor, Pirton, Ploughley, Thame, and Wooton ; having one City and University, two boroughs, Banbury and Woodstock, ten market-towns, and 207 parishes. The diocese of Oxford is in the province of Canterbury. It is included in the Oxford circuit.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF OXFORDSHIRE.

Journey from Claydon to Oxford; through Banbury and Deddington.

THE village of CLAYDON is situated at the northern extremity of the county, about one mile and a half from the turnpike road, and 78 from London. This village is noted for a small spring, which flows all the year, but most plentifully in the driest weather. A little to the eastward of this spring are three stones, called the three shire stones, one of them being situated in this county, another in Northamptonshire, and the third in Warwickshire.

At CLATTERCOTE, a small village near Claydon, was anciently a priory of Gilbertine monks, founded in the reign of King John. Part of this ancient structure is still standing, having been converted into a dwelling-house.

About two miles to the south-west of Claydon, and on the right of the turnpike road, is the village and part of the parish of MOLLINGTON, the remaining part being in the parish of Farnborough, in the county of Warwick ; Mollington is situated 76 miles from London.

Proceeding southwards, at the distance of about two miles from the last-mentioned village, we pass through Little Bourton, a hamlet belonging to GREAT BOURTON, situated about half a mile northward, and containing about 100 houses.

About one mile to the east of Bourton, is the village of CROPREDY, and about one mile farther eastward, is the township of WARDINGTON.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance

of two miles and a half from Bourton, we arrive at BANBURY, a borough and market-town, situated on the river Charwell, being 75 miles and a half from London. This town was incorporated by Queen Mary, in return for its adherence to her against Lady Jane Grey, but its privileges were greatly enlarged by James II. and it obtained a new charter from George I. being now governed by twelve aldermen and six capital burgesses; and returns one member to parliament. A castle was built here in the year 1125, by Alexander, bishop of Lincoln, which was entirely destroyed in the civil wars of Charles I. The Church is large, though not handsome, having lately been rebuilt; besides which, there are two meeting-houses for Protestant dissenters, a Free School, two Charity Schools, and Alms-houses for ten poor widows. The pasture land hereabouts is particularly good, and the town was noted even in Camden's time, for its good cheese, and also for its cakes and ale. In an adjacent field Roman coins have frequently been discovered, and the *Pyrites Aureus*, or golden fire-stone, is found in great quantities. The weekly market on Thursday is reckoned the best in the county for corn, cattle, and all kinds of provisions; besides which it has seven annual fairs; those for hiring servants being called *Mop* fairs.

The town of Banbury, according to the late returns, contained 582 houses, and 2,841 inhabitants.

About one mile to the north-west of Banbury, is the small village of DRAYTON, beyond which is the parish of WROXTON, situated 78 miles from London; and adjoining this village is WROXTON PRIORY, now a seat of the Earl of Guilford. It was founded by Michael Belet, an ecclesiastic, in the reign of King John, for canons of the order of St. Augustine, valued in the survey, 26 Henry VIII. at 78l. 13s. 4½d. It afterwards became the property of Sir T. Pope, founder of Trinity College, Oxford, and by him given to that foundation; of them it is

held by the Earl of Guilford, and used by him as a residence.

About one mile to the north-east of the last mentioned place is the village of HANWELL.

A short distance to the north-west of Hanwell, are the villages of HORLEY and HORNTON.

Returning to the turnpike-road, at the distance of two miles from Banbury, to the right of our road, is the village of BODICOT. One mile to the south of which we pass through the pleasant village of ANDERBURY, formerly respectable from a number of noble and genteel inhabitants, as there are several seats in it, among which is the noble modern-built mansion of the Duke of Buccleugh, who is lord of the manor; and another fine old house, formerly the seat of the Cobbs, Barts. with several other good old houses, but neither of the two former are inhabited, except by servants.

Proceeding southward, at the distance of three miles from the last-mentioned village, is the ancient town of DEDDINGTON, formerly a corporation town, and in the reigns of Edward I. and III. sent members to parliament, but never since. It is at present governed by a bailiff chosen annually. The church is a large and handsome structure, with a strong tower, in which is a ring of six new well-toned bells. Here was formerly a castle, to which the Earl of Pembroke conducted Piers de Gaveston, and there abandoned him to the fury of his enemies; of this castle, however, there are few vestiges remaining. Here is a good Charity School; and a market on Saturday, with three annual fairs. In the neighbourhood are two noted springs, celebrated for their medicinal virtues: one of which is strongly impregnated with sulphur; and in digging of it was found the stone called pyrites argenteus, and a bed of belemnites, commonly called thunder bolts; and out of it has since been taken the silver marcasite, of a glistening colour. The Oxford Canal passes near this place, which is of great advantage

to the inhabitants, having considerably reduced the price of coals. The town was formerly celebrated for the goodness of its malt liquor, from whence it obtained the appellation of *Drunken Deddington*. It is situated 69 miles from London, and contains 252 houses, and 1,296 inhabitants.

About two miles to the north-west of Deddington, is the village of BARFORD.

On leaving Deddington, and proceeding southward, at the distance of about two miles, we pass by the villages of DUNS TEW, and NORTH ASTON, the former of which is situated to the right of the road, the latter, to the left. At this village is a seat belonging to Oldfield Bowles, Esq.

To the south of the last-mentioned place, are the villages of MIDDLE and STEEPLE ASTON. Near this village is a petrifying spring, the water of which cases the grass, moss, and other vegetable substances in its way, with a stony kind of slime, which, while it hardens, consumes the substance it has fastened upon, so that nothing but the petrifying case remains.

Returning to the turnpike road, and proceeding in a southerly direction, at the distance of about eight miles from Deddington, we pass by the village of TACKLEY, situated to the left of the road. About four miles beyond which is the village of KIDLINGTON. About five miles from hence, and 17 from Deddington, we arrive at the city of

OXFORD.

Till of late years even the great roads leading to this venerable seat of the Muses, were rough and heavy in the best weather; but now, from what point soever the traveller advances upon Oxford, he finds his approach facilitated by spacious roads kept in excellent repair. The principal entrances to the city are all likewise good; that from the metropolis is magnificent, and naturally claims priority of estimation. Two great roads lead from the capital to Oxford; one of which runs by Henley on Thames,

and the other by High, or Chipping Wycombe. They both converge upon the small church of St. Clement in the eastern suburb, whence the advance of a few yards, in a westerly direction, leads to a view of the city singularly rich and captivating, which is pleasantly seated on a rising eminence, till of late surrounded by meadows, at the conflux of the rivers Isis and Charwell. The antiquity of this city is very great, and it is even asserted by some ancient writers to have been built by Memphric, king of the Britons, 1009 years before the Christian era. It was formerly surrounded with walls, and defended by a strong castle, and appears to have been burnt four times by the Danes; but on its surrender to William the Conqueror, in the year 1067, it was given to Robert de Oilge, who rebuilt the walls and castle in the year 1071, which from its ruins appears to have been of great extent and strength. In this castle the Empress Maud was so closely besieged by King Stephen, that she was forced to escape by night across the frozen Thames, through his army, and afterwards travel six miles on foot, in a deep snow. All the remains of this castle are the tower, diminishing as it ascends, and now forming part of the county gaol; the moat, with a vaulted magazine, now a store-cellar; and part of a wall, ten feet thick. In the court are the remains of the hall, where was held, in the year 1577, the Black Assize, so called from an infectious distemper brought by the prisoners, whereof nearly 100 persons died.—Some remains of a palace, built by Henry the First, on a spot called Beaumont, are likewise visible at the western part of the town. In this palace Richard I. surnamed Cœur de Lion, was born. The principal monastic establishments in this city were St. Frideswida's and Oseney Abbeys; but on the dissolution of religious houses, Henry VIII. in the year 1542, converted Oxford into a see, extending over the county, which formerly was included in the diocese of Lincoln.

The present circuit of Oxford, including the suburbs, is about three miles, though that part of the town properly denominated the city, and originally enclosed with walls, is not more than two miles in circumference, and of an oblong figure. The suburbs are most considerable on the north, east, and west sides; the walls, from that part of them, which remains as a boundary to New College on the north and east, appear to have been embattled with bastions at 150 feet distance from each other. The walls likewise with their battlements, serve as a fence to Merton College on the south and east; besides which a few detached fragments of them are discernible at other places.

The principal street, called High street, is said to be the most beautiful in the world, both for length, breadth, and elegance of sweep. It derives its principal grandeur from the fronts of three magnificent colleges, and two churches, and every turn presents a new set of objects, till the last terminates in Magdalen College Tower, and a noble bridge over the Charwell: this street, under different names, runs the whole length of the city, from east to west.

The next considerable street, called Fish-street, leads from Carfax to Folly Bridge, over the Isis, on which formerly stood the turret, called Friar Bacon's study. This street is adorned with the stately front of Christ Church, which is extended to the length of 382 feet.

St. Giles's street is of extraordinary breadth, and from the trees on both sides, has the appearance of an elegant village. On the east side stands St. John's College; and the town, as well as the street, is terminated at this end by St. Giles's Church.

In a field, immediately to the north of the Infirmary, stands the Astronomical Observatory, begun in the year 1771, and finished at the expense of 30,000*l.* under the directions of the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe's estate. The field in which it is erected, consisting of ten acres, was given by the Duke of

Marlborough for that purpose. The edifice is 175 feet six inches in length from east to west; its breadth at each wing 24 feet; and in the centre 57 from north to south, exclusive of an elegant portico in the south front, which projects about six feet from the building; the wings are 22 feet in height to the top of the moulding, between the wings and the north front, springs a semicircle, the radius of which is about 37 feet, and its height from the ground 51 feet, which includes the hall, with two adjoining libraries on the ground-floor; the staircase, and the lecture-room, with two adjoining rooms, on the next story. The third story consists of an octangular tower (executed after the model of the celebrated temple of the eight winds at Athens), the elevation of which, including the figure of Atlas, placed on the roof, is upwards of fifty feet; so that the height of the central part of this building is more than 100 feet. The eastern wing contains, in three rooms, a very complete set of astronomical instruments, fixed in the plane of the meridian, all made by the late celebrated artist, Mr. John Bird, at the expense of more than 1,100*l.* consisting of two quadrants, each of eight feet radius, a transit instrument of eight feet, and a zenith sector of twelve; in the western wing is placed a set of smaller instruments for the use of the students, and such gentlemen as choose to apply themselves to practical astronomy. The dwelling house for the professor is commodiously connected with the western wing of the observatory, by an elegant covered way: the present professor of astronomy, Thomas Hornsby, D. D. was appointed to that situation in the year 1763. Towards the lower part of the field stands a small circular building, with a moveable roof, in which is placed an equatorial sector, for the purposes of observing the places of the heavenly bodies at any distance from the meridian. His Grace the Duke of Marlborough, at the same time that he gave to the Radcliffe trustees the piece of ground

for the several purposes of this observatory, also presented to the University a reflecting telescope of twelve feet, made by the late James Short, which is said to have cost upwards of 1000*l*. For the reception of this instrument a detached building, with a moveable roof, is intended to be erected. The situation of this observatory is extremely advantageous, as it commands an extensive horizon, and is scarcely ever incommoded by the smoke of the city. The whole of this elegant structure was executed under the inspection of the late Mr. Wyatt.

The principal bridges are Magdalen Bridge, over the Charwell, being 526 feet in length; at the foot of which stands Magdalen College, situated at the entrance of the town from the London road; High Bridge, or Hithe Bridge, in the western suburb, over the Isis, consisting of three arches; and Folly Bridge, over the same river, in the southern suburb, leading to Abingdon in Berkshire; and likewise consisting of three arches. The whole of these bridges are entirely built with stone.

On the latter bridge, as before observed, formerly stood a tower, which, says Mr. Grose, tradition relates to have been the study of Friar Bacon, an eminent mathematician, who lived in the latter end of the 13th century, and whose superior abilities (such was the ignorance and superstition of the times) brought on him the imputation of being a magician. Among other ridiculous stories told of him, it is said that by his art he so constructed this his study, that it would have fallen, if a more learned man than himself had passed under it.

The city of Oxford, with its suburbs and liberties, contains fourteen parishes, viz. St. Mary's, All Saints, St. Martin's, or Carfax, St. Aldate's, St. Ebb's, St. Peter's in the east, Holywell, St. Giles's; St. Thomas's, St. John's, and St. Clement's. The most remarkable of these churches are St. Mary's, All Saints, St. Peter's, and St. John's.

St. Mary's, where the University resort to attend

divine service, is situated on the north of the High Street, and is a finely-proportioned Gothic pile.—It was rebuilt in the reign of Henry VII. and consists of three aisles, with a spacious choir or chancel, which is separated from the nave by an organ, with its gallery. The pulpit is placed in the centre of the middle aisle, and at the west end of the same aisle is situated the vice-chancellor's throne, below which are accommodations for the different ranks and degrees of the students. On the west end, with a return to the north and south, are galleries for the under graduates, and bachelors of arts. The tower, with its spire, is a noble and beautiful fabric, 180 feet in height, and richly ornamented with pinnacles, niches, and statues, which, according to Plott, were added by King, the first bishop of Oxford, in the reign of Henry VIII. It contains six remarkably large bells, by which notice is given for the scholastic exercises, convocations, &c. On the south side is a portal of more modern structure, erected in the year 1637, by Dr. Owen, chaplain to Archbishop Laud. Over it is a statue of the Virgin, with an infant Christ, holding a small crucifix; which last circumstance was formed into an article of impeachment against the archbishop by the Presbyterians, and urged as a corroborative proof of his attachment to popery. The choir above-mentioned was built about the year 1462, by Walter Hart, bishop of Norwich. The room on the north side of this choir, formerly a library, has lately been converted into a law school, for the lectures of the Vinerian professor.

The Church of All Saints, situated on the same side of the street, is an elegant modern structure, beautified both within and without with Corinthian capitals, and finished with an attic story and balustrade. There is no pillar in the church, though it is 72 feet long, 42 wide, and 50 high. The spire, and the whole of the internal as well as external decorations, are completed in the finest style of

architecture, from a design of Dr. Aldrich, formerly dean of Christchurch.

St. Peter's in the East, adjoining the High Street, is composed of free-stone, and has a nave and side aisle, with a chancel abutting, on which is another aisle that extends to the north. The length, exclusively of the chancel, is about seventy-six feet, and the width forty-two. The chancel is 39 feet in length; at the west end is a square tower, having on each side a small pointed window not glazed. The part towards the east is the only remains of the Saxon fabric; the other divisions being evidently of a more recent date, and are supposed by Hearne to have been rebuilt in the reign of Henry V. In the centre of the east end is a pediment, and at each corner a turret rounded towards the top, and capped with a conical roofing of stone-work. The chief window is pointed, and more modern than the wall in which it is inserted; but on the south are a window and several small pillars and mouldings completely Saxon. Part of a large Saxon window on the other side is obscured by a tasteless mass of stone and mortar, appropriated to the uses of a vestry room. The front in this church is embowered in a representation of the forbidden tree, supported by two unaltered figures, intended for Adam and Eve. In a window on the north is a fanciful symbol of the Trinity.

Beneath the chancel is a crypt in excellent preservation, the arches of which are supported by four ranges of short Saxon pillars. In a vault under this chancel St. Grimbald, the supposed founder of the church, intended his remains should rest; but when the dispute arose between him and the scholars, he indignantly removed his monumental preparations to Winchester. Thomas Hearne the antiquary lies in this church-yard; his stone was repaired in 1754 by Dr. Rawlinson. This used to be the university church, but it is now only attended by that respectable body in the afternoon during Lent.

The Church of St. John is a majestic Gothic edi-

fice, with a tower, in which are eight bells. Its choir or inner chapel, is the longest of any in the University, that of New College excepted. It had once an organ, yet without any regular institution for choir service, before the present stalls and wainscot were put up. The painted glass in the east window, which is by a modern hand, is particularly handsome. The anti-chapel is proportionably spacious, and was originally much larger. Near the altar are the monuments of Sir Thomas Bodley and Sir Henry Savile; and on the right hand of the choir door is that of the late warden Dr. Wintle, and his sister, which is handsomely executed. This church, according to a manuscript of Wood, was built about the year 1424, on the ruins of a very ancient pile.

St. Mary Magdalen's Church is divided into a nave, two aisles, and a chancel. On the south is a chantry built originally by Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1194; but renewed by King Edward III., and dedicated to the Holy Virgin, whose statue formerly stood here on a pedestal. On the north side is another chantry, supposed to have been built by Dergoville, the foundress of Baliol College. Over the west end of the church rises an embattled tower.

St. Giles's was erected in the twelfth century, as some writers suppose on the site of an ancient British temple; it contains a nave, chancel, and two aisles. The south aisle opens to a chapel founded by one of the Fitzwarrens of Walton, and dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. At the west end is an embattled tower.

Holywell is a chapel dedicated to the Holy Cross, appertaining to St. Peter's in the east. This chapel consists of one aisle and a chancel, with an attached chantry belonging to the Virgin Mary. This is supposed to have been erected by Robert de Oilge, the Norman governor of Oxford, appointed by the Conqueror.

St. Michael's originally belonged to the canons of St. Frideswida; but was united to All Saints church

by the Bishop of Lincoln in 1429. The tower is very ancient, and appears to be rapidly sinking under the weight of years. The other parts are of more modern date, and contain a chancel, a nave, and two aisles.

On the site of St. Peter's in the Bailey, stood a very ancient structure which fell down in 1726. The present church was opened in 1740, and is a respectable stone building. The nave is spacious, and has an aisle on each side. A gallery has been added by the benefaction of Daniel Flexney, a carpenter, and the internal decorations are of a suitable and unassuming character.

Carfax, or St. Martin's, is descended by several steps, and is composed of a nave, two narrow aisles, and a chancel. Over the west end is a tower formerly more lofty, but reduced to its present dimensions in the reign of Edward III., in consequence of a complaint made by the scholars that the towns people would retire thither "in time of combat," and annoy them with stones and arrows, as from a castle. There is no record of the foundation of this church. The tutelar saint was Bishop of Tours, and died in the year 599.

St. Clement's is a small church in the eastern suburb, consisting of one aisle and a chancel. Over the west end is a low tower capped with tiles.

The church of St. Ebbs, was dedicated to the memory of Ebbe, daughter of Ethelfred, King of Northumberland, who died in 683. It contains a nave, north aisle, and chancel.

St. Aldate's is often, by a strange perversion of terms, called St. Olds! St. Aldate was a British saint of the fifth century; and the first church erected on this spot was of wood, and is supposed to have been constructed before the Saxons bore sway. The edifice was afterwards re-founded, and used as a cloister to receive persons training for the priory of St. Frideswida and Abingdon Abbey. The

present church is an irregular structure, composed at various periods.

The church of St. Thomas was founded in 1141, by the canons of Osney, and was first dedicated to St. Nicholas. Its present appellation it derived from Thomas a Becket—Over the west end is an embattled tower.

One of the best improvements of Oxford, was the opening of the narrow and incommodious passage at Eastgate. At Carfax in the centre of the city, many buildings were also removed in order to continue the principal street, which leads to the Botley road, now completely finished, on a superb plan, as it contains no less than seven bridges, built with hewn stone, in the compass of one mile. Northgate, usually called Bocardo, the only city gate of late years remaining, has also been pulled down; so that the Corn Market and St. Giles's, being now connected, are thrown into one long and noble street. The general market is a commodious range of buildings, completed in 1774. There are three divisions for the different classes of purveyors. The first, which has three approaches from the north side of the High Street, is entirely occupied by butchers. The second has stalls for the venders of poultry, bacon, &c. and the third is allotted to the sale of vegetables and fruit. An arcade with ranges of shops proceeds along the whole of the outside; and the interior of the market is aired by three avenues across, and one up the centre. Provisions, excellent in their respective kinds, are to be had here in abundance. At the south entrance from the High Street, it contains several commodious shops for butchers. North of these are others equally commodious, occupied by gardeners, &c. between which are two spacious colonnades for poultry, eggs, bacon, cheese, &c. &c. divided into stalls; and beyond these, extending quite to Jesus' College Lane, is a large area for fruit, and divers other commodities. There are

likewise three avenues running through in direct lines, intersected by another in the middle, affording a free currency of air; and in the front four elegant and commodious houses have been erected, which give an additional ornament to the High-street. The open part of the market, fronting Jesus' College, is inclosed by an iron palisade; and the avenues opening upon the new parade in the High-street are secured by iron gates. The whole extent of the ground appropriated to the purpose of erecting this market is, from north to south, 347 feet, and from east to west 112. The markets are on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The Vice Chancellor being empowered to superintend the markets, inspect weights and measures, punish forestallers, appoints two clerks of the Market from the Masters of Arts and Bachelors of Divinity, Law, and Medicine.

The municipal government of the city is vested in a mayor, high steward, recorder, four aldermen, eight assistants, two bailiffs, a town clerk, two chamberlains, and 24 common-council. The mayor for the time being, officiates in the buttry at the coronation of the kings and queens of England, and has a large gilt bowl and cover for his fee,

The magistracy of Oxford is subject to the chancellor or vice chancellor of the University, in all affairs of moment, even those relating to the city; and the vice-chancellor administers annually an oath to the magistrates and sheriffs, that they will maintain the privileges of the University.

Pennyless Bench, where the farmers now assemble and sell their corn by sample, is near Quatrevoix, or Carfax, where some feint traces of this once celebrated seat still remains. Here, says Sir J. Peshall, the mayor and his brethren met occasionally on public affairs; and if history and tradition inform us rightly, this was frequently the seat of the Muses, and many wits were benchers here. Mr. John Philips, author of the *Splendid Shilling*, was no

stranger to this inspiring spot ; as it is inferred from the panegyric on Oxford ale :

Beneath thy shelter Pennyless I quaff

The cheering cup.

The city of Oxford is well paved—Magdalen Bridge, or that over which the town is entered from the east, is an elegant stone building 526 feet in length, built in 1779 at the expense of eight thousand pounds. The bridge over the Isis in the western suburb, consists of three substantial arches ; and on the south is another bridge over the same river, on which stood, till within a few years, a lofty tower, commonly called Friar Bacon's study. This was a watch tower built in the reign of King Stephen, though it is not less probable that Bacon was frequently in the habit of ascending this venerable tower for the purpose of making astronomical remarks.

The town and county hall where the assizes are held is a spacious stone building with a range of rustic work in the lower division of the front, and a pediment over the centre. The whole space beneath the hall is an open corridore ; annexed to the chief part of the building are various rooms for the use of the corporation, the town clerk, &c. This edifice was completed in 1752, chiefly at the expense of Thomas Rowney, Esq. late representative in parliament, and high steward of the city. There are some good portraits in one of the rooms. In Holywell-street is a handsome stone edifice termed the Music room. It contains an orchestra with rows of seats for the auditory, rising gradually from the floor. The front is plain but well proportioned, being designed by Dr. Camplin, sometime vice principal of St. Edmund's hall, but built by subscription and opened in 1748.

The Radcliffe Infirmary is a large and respectable stone building ; the current expenses are defrayed by voluntary subscription. Between six and seven hundred persons are supposed to obtain

annual relief here. A subscription of *Sl. 3s.* per annum, or a contribution of thirty guineas or more at a time, entitles a person to the rank of governor.

About a quarter of a mile to the south-west of the infirmary is a house of industry, built to receive the poor of eleven parishes. The rest of the charitable Institutions consist of alms-houses, at the end of the town leading to Headington; each occupant of which has an allowance of eight shillings per week, with liberty to work, if willing or able. This liberal institution was founded by Charles Boulter, Esq. for six poor single men of six different counties.

Opposite to these is a building founded for eight poor women, by the Rev. William Stone. Each almswoman receives twelve pounds per annum, and other advantages.

Adjacent to the town-hall is a school founded by John Nixon, Esq. for the sons of freemen, and endowed with thirty pounds per annum for ever.

The University supports a school for fifty four-boys called the grey coat charity. They are plainly educated and placed out as apprentices. A school for forty boys is maintained by contributions from the inhabitants of the city. Each boy is clothed, and has ten pounds bestowed on him as an apprentice fee. The ladies of Oxford, support about thirty girls, who are afterwards apprenticed, or placed out as domestic servants.

The Roman Catholics, the Quakers, the Methodists and Baptists, have each a place of worship in this city.

The number of religious houses in Oxford prior to the reformation was nineteen :—St. Frideswida's, St. George's College, Osney Abbey, Rewley Abbey, St. Bernard's College, Canterbury College, Gloucester Hall, London College, St. Mary's College, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, St. John's Hospital, Austin Friars, Black Friars, Grey Friars, White Friars, Crouched Friars, Friars de Sacco, Trinity

House, several of these religious institutions fell to decay before the general dissolution, and were lost in collegiate establishments. Scarcely any of the buildings appertaining to this class, have been preserved, except small portions of Gloucester Hall and Durham College. The present Cathedral church is likely to remain for ages, an interesting specimen of the former importance of the Priory of St. Frideswida. In the western suburbs, are some mutilated relics of Rewley Abbey, founded about 1280; and opposite New Inn Hall, in St. Peter's in the Bailey, is a gateway formerly belonging to St. Mary's College, in which Erasmus studied during the years 1497 and 1498.

The palace of Beaumont, built by Henry I. in 1128, stood on the west side of the city. This contains a room in which, according to tradition, Richard I. was born. Edward II. gave this palace to the Carmelite Friars in consequence of a vow; but it was occasionally visited by many succeeding Kings, till the dissolution, when the whole was pulled down except the hall, &c.

The town and county gaol is a spacious stone building, with separate lodgings and yards of exercise for the debtors and felons. The buildings are arranged in imitation of Gothic castellated towers, and the principal entrance is between two low embattled turrets. Upon this spot stood the castle built by Robert de Oilge, which had, besides a church or chapel, an accommodation for students. This Norman castle was built with prodigious strength, and occupied a large extent of ground. The dungeons were first granted as prisons to the University, and the county at large by Henry III. The whole buildings were repaired and put in a state of defence by Charles I. "The stately towers," says Peshall, "were standing till Colonel Ingoldsby the governor's time, in 1649, when the castle being designed by the Parliament for a garrison, after the city works were slighted and decayed, they were all, being

four in number, besides that on the gate, pulled down, and bulwarks on the mount erected in their places; but these were again pulled down by Charles II. in 1652. The only remains now to be seen of de Oilge's massive structure, are the mount, a crypt, and a shell of one tower, which is square and lighted only by a few loop holes, having a narrow stone staircase winding up a projecting turret at one of the angles.

The City Bridewell is situated in an extensive area, and is a substantial and well arranged building, finished in 1789. Till that period, prisoners were confined in a prison over the north gate, called Bocardo. In this dreary gaol, were the martyrs Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer detained, and thence led to the mournful triumph of the stake. When the Bocardo was pulled down, Mr. Alderman Fletcher procured the door, which led to the cell of the Bishops' confinement, and caused it to be preserved in the New Bridewell. The massive iron hinges and ponderous key, are sufficient to cause the spectator to shudder, when he recollects, that this once presented an impassable barrier to latent piety, and venerable age. From Strype's Memoirs it appears, that the Bishops' partook both at dinner and supper of several dishes, and regularly drank wine. In October, 1555, Ridley and Latimer were brought forth to their burning, and passing by Cranmer's prison, Ridley looked up to have seen him; but he was not then at the window, being engaged in a dispute with a Spanish friar. But he looked after them, and devoutly falling on his knees, prayed to God to strengthen their faith and patience in that their last but painful passage. Cranmer's behaviour at the same dismal hour, enforced the admiration even of his enemies.

The origin of the University of Oxford is involved in obscurity; but all historians agree that it was at a very early period. Some early writers assert that it was the seat of learning in the time of the Britons. When the Danes were reduced by Alfred, that

prince is said to have founded three colleges, one for philosophy, another for grammar, and a third for divinity, in the year 886, so that on this consideration Alfred appears rather to have been the restorer than the founder. History mentions that in the reign of King John, there were 3000 students in this city, who all suddenly left the place, and retired to Reading, Cambridge, Salisbury, and other towns, owing to the king's severity in ordering two scholars to be hanged without the walls, at the instance of the citizens, on suspicion of their having accidentally killed a woman; but the inhabitants being soon sensible of their loss, sued for pardon on their knees before the Pope's legate, and submitted to public penance in all the churches of Oxford. After an absence of five years, the scholars, having obtained new privileges for their more effectual protection, returned to Oxford.

The University, consisting of 20 colleges and five halls, is governed by a chancellor, usually a nobleman, chosen for life; a high steward, named by the chancellor, and approved by the University, who is also for life; and to assist the chancellor, &c. a vice-chancellor, one always in orders, and the head of a college, who exercises the chancellor's power, keeps the officers and students to their duty, and chooses four pro-vice chancellors, out of the heads of colleges, to officiate in his absence; two proctors, who are masters of arts, chosen yearly out of the several colleges in turn, to keep the peace, punish disorders, inspect weights and measures, order scholastic exercise, and the admission to degrees: a public orator, who writes letters by order of convocation, and harangues princes, and other great men, who visit the University; a keeper of its archives; a registrar, who records all transactions of the convocation, &c. three esquire-beadles, with gilt silver maces, and three yeoman-beadles, with plain ones, who attend the vice-chancellor in public, execute his orders for apprehending delinquents.

publish the courts of convocation, and conduct the preachers to church, and lecturers to school; a vergger, who, on solemn occasions, walks with the beadles before the vice-chancellor, and carries a silver rod.

The University consists, as before observed, of 20 colleges, and five halls, viz :

	<i>Founded.</i>		<i>Founded.</i>
University College,	872	Trinity . . .	1555
Baliol . . .	1262	St. John's . .	1557
Merton . . .	1274	Jesus . . .	1571
Exeter . . .	1316	Wadham . . .	1613
Oriel . . .	1337	Pembroke . .	1620
Queen's . . .	1340	Worcester . .	1713
New College . .	1375	Hertford . . .	1740
Lincoln . . .	1427	St. Alban's Hall,	
All Souls . . .	1437	St. Mary's Hall,	
Magdalene . .	1449	St. Edmund's Hall,	
Brazen Nose . .	1511	Magdalene Hall,	
Corpus Christi .	1519	New Inn Hall.	
Christ Church .	1532		

COLLEGES.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—The magnificent front of this college is extended upwards of 260 feet along the south side of the high street. It consists of two courts, with two portals opening from the street, and a turret over each. The west portal leads to a well-built Gothic quadrangle of 100 feet square. Over this, towards the street, is a statue of queen Ann, and within, another of James II. and on the outside of the eastern portal is one of Mary, queen of William III. The Chapel and Hall occupy the southern part of the western quadrangle. The windows of the former are composed of finely-painted glass, particularly that over the altar, which, according to the inscription on it, was given by Dr. Radcliffe, in the year 1687; the roof of this chapel is a well-wrought frame of Norway oak.—At the entrance to the hall, which has lately been fitted up in a beautiful Gothic style, is a statue of

Alfred. This hall is of the same age with the chapel.

Beyond this court is another area of three sides, opening to gardens on the south. The east and part of the north side are taken by the lodgings of the master, which are commodious and extensive; and in a niche over the gate on the north, is a statue of Dr. Radcliffe. The sides of this court are about 80 feet.

In the common room is an excellent bust in statuary marble of Alfred, executed by Mr. Wilton, from an admirable model of Rysbrac; this is supposed to be one of the best pieces of modern sculpture in the University; and was presented to the college by Lord Viscount Folkstone.

King Alfred is said to have founded this college in the year 872. It is thought to be evident that he erected certain halls in Oxford, near, or on the spot, where this college now stands; and that he endowed the students of them with certain pensions issuing from the Exchequer; these halls, however, appear to have been alienated to the citizens, and their pensions suppressed about the reign of the Conqueror; we may therefore consider the real founder of this college to be William, archdeacon of Durham, who in the year 1209, purchased of the citizens one of the halls, which had been originally erected by Alfred, and probably styled University Hall. A society being thus established, many other benefactors afterwards appeared, who improved the revenues and buildings; of these the most considerable are, Walter Skirlaw, bishop of Durham, who founded three fellowships; Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, in the year 1443 added the same number; and Sir Simon Bennet, who in the reign of Charles I. established four fellowships and four scholarships.

The present society consists of a master, 12 fellows, 17 scholars, and many other students. Visitor, the King.

The present spacious and splendid structure was

begun to be erected in the year 1634, by the benefaction of Charles Greenwood, formerly fellow of this college, and was afterwards carried on by Sir Simon Bennet above-mentioned : nor were succeeding patrons wanting to continue so noble a work, till it was finally completed by Dr. John Radcliffe, who erected two sides of the eastern quadrangle, entirely at his own expense ; he likewise settled on this college 600*l.* per annum for two travelling fellowships.

BALIOI COLLEGE—This college consists chiefly of a spacious court, entered by a Gothic gateway. The buildings on the east are more modern than the rest, and are of a plain and commodious character. On the north is the chapel, which was erected about the reign of Henry VIII. It is adorned with some beautiful pieces of painted glass, particularly the east window, which represents the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ. The hall is a large and light room, handsomely wainscoted ; and in the master's lodging is likewise a spacious old apartment, whose beautiful bow window projects on the west side of the court, and which was formerly the college chapel. In the Library, which was finished about the year 1477, are several curious manuscripts. Besides the principal court, which was begun to be erected in the reign of Henry VI. there is an area to the north-west, consisting of irregular and detached lodgings.

A new and elegant building has also been lately added at the south-west angle of this college ; it was erected by the donation of the Rev. Mr. Fisher, late fellow of this society. Its south front, which is 108 feet six inches in length, consists of three stories, with nine windows in each ; and having three breaks, those at each end have Venetian windows ; on the middle break is formed a pediment, with a shield in the tympanum ; and the whole surrounded with a block cornice. This building is 38 feet six

inches in depth; and under the centre window in the back front, is the following inscription.

VERBUM NON AMPLIUS FISHER.

Sir John Balliol, of Bernard Castle, father of the king of Scotland of the same name, in the year 1268, began the foundation of this college. He appointed certain annual exhibitions for students, and intended to provide a house for their reception; but dying before his plan could be put in execution, his widow, lady Dervogille, not only completed, but improved his design. She obtained a charter of incorporation, settled the benefaction of her husband on 16 fellows, and conveyed to them, in the year 1282, a message, no vestige of which remains, on the spot where the college stands at present, for their perpetual habitation. Their stipends were eight-pence per week to each fellow; so that the whole original endowment amounted to no more than 27l. 9s. 4d. per year. It appears that the number of fellows was afterwards reduced; for about the year 1507, it was ordained that the society should consist of only one master and ten fellows. But this number has been since increased, and many scholarships and exhibitions have been likewise added.

The principal benefactors are Philip Somerville, Thomas Stanhope, Peter Blundell, Lady Periam, with several others. John Warner, bishop of Rochester, in the year 1666, likewise founded four exhibitions for natives of Scotland; whose benefaction has been since enlarged by John Snell, Esq.

This society consists of a master, 12 fellows, 18 exhibitioners, and 14 scholars. The master and fellows elect their own visitor.

MERTON COLLEGE.—This college is composed of three courts, neither of which contains much grandeur. In the first court the most striking object is the east window of the chapel; the construction of which is a fine piece of Gothic workmanship. From this court is the entrance to the hall by a

flight of steps: it is large and lofty, but contains nothing particularly remarkable, except the wainscot over the high table, which appears, by a date engraved upon it, in figures of an antique form, to have been erected in the year 1554. The new or second quadrangle was erected in the year 1610, from the south apartments of which there is a beautiful prospect over the meadows.

The chapel, which is also the parish church of St. John, has already been described in page 42. South of this church or chapel, is a small old quadrangle; the south side of which forms the library, built about the year 1376, which still contains several curious manuscripts, notwithstanding, as we are told by Wood, a cart load of manuscripts was taken from it, which were dispersed or destroyed by the visitors in the reign of Edward VI.

The terrace, formed on the city wall in the garden of this college, is finely situated for a delightful view, and the gardens, in general, have a pleasing variety.

This college was founded by Walter de Merton, chancellor of England, and afterwards bishop of Rochester, for the maintenance of 20 scholars, and three chaplains, about the year 1264. It was first established, as a religious house, at Malden in Surrey; where it continued but a few years, when the founder transferred it to its present situation. It is said that Henry III. recommended this foundation to Hugo, bishop of Ely, as a pattern for the establishment of his college of St. Peter at Cambridge.

The benefactors of this society are numerous.—Amongst these the most remarkable are, Henry Sever, and Richard Fitz James, formerly wardens; and Dr. John Wylott, Chancellor of the Church of Exeter, who gave exhibitions for the maintenance of 12 portionestæ, called postmasters, in the year 1380; these were afterwards increased to 14, by John Chambers, who directed that his two additional exhibitioners should be elected from Eton

School. Mr. Henry Jackson, late of this house, has likewise founded here four scholarships.

The society consists at present of a warden, 24 fellows, 14 postmasters, four scholars, two chaplains, and two clerks. The number of members of every sort is nearly 80.—Visitor, the archbishop of Canterbury.

EXETER COLLEGE.—This college is situated within that part of the city called the Thurl. In the centre of the front, which is 220 feet in length, is a beautiful gate of rustic work; and over it is a tower, adorned with Ionic pilasters, supporting a semicircular pediment, in the area of which are the arms of the founder on a shield, surrounded with festoons; a light balustrade finishes the whole.

This college consists chiefly of one handsome quadrangle; one side of which is the same as the front just described. On the south is the Hall, which is long and lofty, and adorned with portraits. It was entirely built from the ground by Sir John Ackland, of Devonshire, in the year 1618. On the north is the chapel, consisting of two aisles, one of which only is fitted up for divine service. It was finished chiefly at the expense of Dr. Hakewell, the rector, in the year 1624. In the Library is a fine collection of the classics, given by Thomas Richards, Esq.

The old entrance into the college was through the tower, which appears on the north-east angle of the court, and for which a postern in the city wall was opened. Near it, or about this tower, the old college, as it may in some measure be called, seems to have stood. No part of the original structure is now remaining. The chapel was converted into a library, and used for that purpose, till the bequest of the Rev. Joseph Sandford's valuable collection of books rendered it inadequate. The society, therefore, in the year 1778, erected a neat modern edifice in their garden as the college library.

The gardens are neat, with an agreeable terrace;

from whence a prospect is opened to some of the finest buildings in the university.

This college was founded by Walter Stapledon, bishop of Exeter, Lord Treasurer of England, and Secretary of State to Edward II. for 13 fellows, in the year 1316. It was first called Stapledon Hall, but obtained its present name from Edmund Stafford, bishop of Exeter, in the year 1404, who gave two fellowships. Many other benefactors have also liberally contributed towards extending the foundation; the most memorable of whom is Sir William Petre, who, in the year 1566, founded eight fellowships, procuring at the same time a more effectual charter, and a new body of statutes. King Charles I. likewise annexed one fellowship for the islands of Guernsey and Jersey.

This college consists at present of one rector, 25 fellows, and a bible clerk, with ten exhibitioners; and the whole number of members are about 50.—Visitor, the bishop of Exeter.

Oriel College, is situated southward of St. Mary's church, on the north side of the front of Corpus Christi College, its great gate being almost opposite to the back gate of Christ Church. It chiefly consists of one beautiful quadrangle, erected about the year 1640. On the north are the lodgings of the Provost, on the east the hall and vestibule of the chapel, and on the other sides are the apartments for the fellows and students. The ascent to the hall is by a grand flight of steps, covered with a portico. The interior is handsomely wainscotted in the Doric style, and decorated at the upper end with a portrait of Edward II. dressed in his regalia, by Hudson; one of Queen Anne, who annexed a prebend of Rochester to the provostship, by Dahl; and another of the late duke of Beaufort, who is represented erect, in his parliamentary robes, attended by a boy bearing a coronet, by Soldi. The chapel is more distinguished for simple elegance than magnificence. The eastern window represents

the offerings of the Magi, executed by Mr. Pecket, from a design of the late Dr. Wall. On the north side of the quadrangle is the entrance into a small court, called the Garden Court, which receives an agreeable air from an elegant little garden, which is formed in the midst of it, and fenced on this side with iron gates and pallisades, supported by a dwarf wall, and stone piers: the sides are built in a style correspondent to that of the quadrangle; that on the right was erected by Dr. Robinson, bishop of London; and that on the left by Dr. Carter, formerly provost. At the end is an elegant building, lately erected for a library.

This college was founded by Adam De Brom, almoner to Edward II. in the year 1327; for one provost and ten fellows. He endowed it with the rents of one messuage, five shops, with their upper rooms, and a cellar, all situated in St. Mary's parish: he also gave it the advowson of the church of the said parish, and a messuage in the north suburb. This was the whole of the original endowment; so that Edward II. is generally esteemed the founder; though he appears to have acquired this title merely because De Brom, in hopes that his master would increase its small revenues, and more effectually secure its foundation, surrendered his society into the king's hands; in fact, Edward conferred little or nothing more on the college than a charter of incorporation, and certain privileges. The members were at first placed in a building purchased by De Brom, where St. Mary's Hall now stands; but they soon removed from thence to a messuage called Le Oriel, given to them by Edward III.: who likewise granted to the college, the hospital of St. Bartholomew, near Oxford. The number of fellows has been since increased by various benefactors: the principal of whom, were John Franke, master of the rolls in the time of Henry VI. who founded four fellowships; John Carpenter, formerly provost, bishop of Worcester, added one; and William Smith, bishop

of Lincoln, and founder of Brazen-Nose College, another; after which Dr. Richard Dudley, formerly fellow, and chancellor of the church of Sarum, made the whole number of fellows 18. Many exhibitions have been likewise given to the society; more particularly by the late duke of Beaufort, who gave 100*l.* per annum to four exhibitioners.

The college has gone through frequent revolutions with regard to its buildings; the principal benefactor to the present edifice was Dr. John Tolson, when provost, who, besides other valuable donations, gave 1,150*l.* for that purpose. The above-mentioned Dr. Robinson, bishop of London, likewise gave 2,500*l.* for augmenting the fellowships.

The present members of this college are one provost, 18 fellows, and 13 exhibitioners; and the students of all sorts amount to almost 80.—Visitor, the Lord Chancellor.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.—This college is situated on the north side of the High Street, opposite to University College; the front, which is built in the style of the Luxembourg Palace, is at once magnificent and elegant. In the middle is a splendid gateway, over which is a superb cupola, with a statue of Queen Caroline under it. The whole area on which this beautiful college, which is one entire piece of well-executed modern architecture, stands, is an oblong square, 300 feet in length, and 220 feet in breadth, which, being divided by the hall and chapel, is formed into two courts. The first court is 140 feet in length, and 120 in breadth, having a beautiful cloister on the west, south, and east. Over the western cloisters are the provost's lodgings, which are spacious and splendid. The north side is formed by the chapel and hall, and finely finished in the Doric order. In the centre, over a portico, leading to the north court, stands a handsome cupola, supported by eight Ionic columns.

The chapel is 100 feet long, and 30 broad. It is ornamented in the Corinthian order, with a beau-

tiful ceiling of fret-work. The windows are all of fine old painted glass of the year 1518, that over the altar excepted, representing the Nativity, which was executed by Mr. Price, in the year 1717. Under this has lately been placed a painting on the same subject; it is a copy from *La Notte*, the *Night* of Correggio, in the Dresden gallery, which is esteemed one of the finest pictures in the world. The most remarkable of these windows are two on the north side, representing the Last Judgment, and two on the south, the Ascension: these, with the rest, were removed hither from the old chapel. The roof is likewise adorned with a fine painting of the Ascension, by Sir James Thornhill.

The hall, which is fitted up in the Doric order, is 60 feet long, and 30 broad, with an arched roof of a corresponding height, and furnished with portraits of the founder and benefactors, to which has lately been added a picture of her late Majesty Queen Charlotte. Over the screen is a handsome gallery, intended for music, and as a vestibule to the common room, to which it leads.

The North Court is 130 feet long, and 90 broad; on the west stands the Library, which is of the Corinthian order. Under the east side of this edifice runs a cloister; its west side is adorned with statues of the founder and benefactors, with other pieces of sculpture. The interior of this building is highly finished, and the book-cases, which are of Norway oak, are decorated with well-wrought carving, and in the ceiling are some admirable compartments of stucco. It has a splendid orrery, and is furnished with a valuable collection of books and manuscripts in most languages.

Robert Eggesfield, a native of Cumberland, and confessor to Queen Philippa, founded this college, in the year 1340, for one provost and twelve fellows, to be chosen from the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland. To these he intended to annex 70 children or scholars, a few of which number only

were really established, the founder's entire design being prevented by his death. The benefactors, however, have been very numerous: the chief of whom were Edward III. and his queen Philippa, from whom it was called Queen's College; Charles I. who gave six advowsons; Sir Joseph Williamson, and Drs. Lancaster and Halton, formerly provosts; Sir F. Bridgeman, Lady Betty Hastings, &c.

The present edifice was begun by Sir J. Williamson, above-mentioned, in the year 1672, who was a most munificent contributor; and, being continued by the liberality of several intermediate benefactors, was at length completed by the noble legacy of Mr. Michel, of Richmond, who likewise founded eight fellowships and four scholarships. These fellows and scholars have handsome apartments appropriated to them in the new buildings, beside an annual stipend of 50*l.* to each of the former, and 30*l.* per annum to each of the latter. This foundation was first filled up by election from other colleges of the University, on the 26th of October, 1764.

The custom of ushering in the boar's head with a song on Christmas Day is at present peculiar to this college; but it was formerly practised all over the kingdom. This custom has been absurdly said to have originated in the following story: A student of this college, with Aristotle in his hand, walking out in the vicinity of Oxford, was attacked by a furious boar; upon which he crammed the philosopher down the throat of the savage, and thus escaped impending danger.

Henry, prince of Wales, afterwards king Henry V. is supposed to have studied at this college, under the care of cardinal Beaufort.

The college consists at present of a provost, 16 fellows, two chaplains, eight taberdars, so called from taberdum, a short gown which they formerly wore, 16 scholars, two clerks, and 40 exhibitioners. To these may be added the members of Mr.

Michel's new foundation, above-mentioned. The whole number of members is nearly 200. Visitor, the Archbishop of York.

NEW COLLEGE.—This college, which is situated eastward of the schools, is separated from Queen's college by a narrow lane on the south.

The first court, which is entered by a portal, is about 168 feet in length, and 129 in breadth. In the centre is a statue of Minerva, given by Sir Henry Parker, of Honington, in Warwickshire. The north side, which consists of the chapel and hall, is a noble specimen of Gothic magnificence. The two upper stories of the east side form the library. On the west are the lodgings of the warden, which are large and commodious, and adorned with many valuable portraits. The third story of this court was added to the founder's original building in the year 1674.

The chapel, which is by far the most beautiful and grand of any in Oxford, stands on the north side of the quadrangle. The anti-chapel, which is supported by two beautiful staff-moulded pillars of fine proportion, runs at right angles to the choir, and is 80 feet long, and 36 broad. The choir, which is entered by a Gothic screen of beautiful construction, is 100 feet long, 35 broad, and 65 in height. The approach to the altar, which is by a noble flight of marble steps, is inclosed by a well-wrought rail of iron work. Over the communion-table, in the wall, are five compartments of marble sculpture, in alto-relievo, representing the following subjects: 1. The Salutation of the Virgin Mary. 2. The Nativity of Jesus Christ. 3. The taking down from the Cross. 4. The Resurrection, and 5. The Ascension. These were all finished by Mr. Westmacott, who likewise furnished the table or altar, which is 12 feet long, and three broad, and is composed of dove-coloured marble. The organ-loft is a most superb piece of Gothic architecture, raised over the entrance of the choir at the west end, and very

fitly corresponding with the richness and beauty of the altar-piece; and the organ is a most admirable instrument, erected by the famous Dolham, and since improved by Mr. John Byfield. On the north side of the chapel is kept the crozier of the founder, a well-preserved piece of antiquity, and almost the only one in the kingdom. It is nearly seven feet high, is of silver gilt, and is finely embellished with a variety of rich Gothic architecture.

The painted windows of this chapel, however, constitute its chief ornament; of these there are four sorts, viz.

1. All the windows of the anti-chapel (the west excepted) are nearly as old as the chapel itself; and contain the portraits of patriarchs, prophets, saints, martyrs, &c. to the number of 64, as large as life, and 50 smaller above them, curious for their antiquity, but for little else; being drawn without perspective, without the effect of light and shade, and ill proportioned. Yet in these are some few remains, which shew the brilliancy of their colours, and some few traces of simplicity and beauty, particularly the heads of the female figures, in the window on the right-hand of the entrance to the chapel.

2. The second sort are the windows on the north side of the chapel. These are in the common style of modern glass painting. The three nearest to the organ, (finished in the year 1774,) contain in the lower range, the chief persons recorded in the Old Testament, from Adam to Moses; in the upper, 12 of the prophets. The other two windows are filled with our blessed Saviour, the Virgin Mary, and the 12 apostles. These figures stand each within a niche upon a pedestal, and under a canopy of Gothic architecture. The whole of these windows is the workmanship of Mr. Peckitt, of York.

3. The windows opposite, on the south side of the chapel, were repaired by Mr. Price, junior, in the year 1740. Each window represents eight figures

of saints and martyrs, with their respective symbols and insignia ; and for expression, colouring, and effect, were esteemed superior to any thing ever executed on glass, till the appearance of the fourth, viz.

4. The west window of the anti-chapel, consisting of two ranges ; in the lower are seven compartments, each of which is near three feet wide and twelve high. In these stand seven allegorical figures, representing the four cardinal and three Christian Virtues, in the following manner :

Temperance, pouring water out of a larger vessel into a smaller. Her common attribute, the bridle, lies at her feet.

Fortitude, in armour ; her hand resting on a column, which though half destroyed remains upright ; her form robust, her look bold and resolute ; a lion, her attendant, couches below her.

Faith, standing fixedly on both feet, and bearing a cross ; her eyes and hand raised to heaven.

On the other side of the middle group is Hope looking up to heaven, and springing up towards it so eagerly, that her feet scarcely touch the ground. Part of an anchor, her attribute, is to be seen in the corner of the compartment.

Justice, looking with a steady and piercing eye, through the dark shade that her arm casts over her face. In her left hand the steelyard, and her right hand supporting the sword.

Prudence, beholding, as in a mirror, the actions and manners of others, for the purpose of regulating her own. On her left arm is an arrow joined with a remora, the respective emblems of swiftness and slowness : Prudence being a medium between both.

The middle group, above mentioned, representing Charity, is particularly worthy of notice, on account of the expression of the figures. The fondling of the infant, the importunity of the boy, and the placid affection of the girl, together with the divided attention of the mother, are distinguishably and judiciously marked.

These figures, however, which fill the lower compartment, are but a subordinate part to the superb work erected over them. In a space 10 feet wide, and 18 feet high, is represented the Nativity, a composition of 13 figures besides animals, consisting of

The Blessed Virgin, whose attention is wholly engaged in her infant.

A group of angels descended into the stable, and kneeling around him ; the face of the least of these figures exhibits an idea of youthful beauty that perhaps was never surpassed.

A company of Shepherds, whose devotion and eagerness to behold the infant are strongly expressed.

Joseph looking at the spectators, and pointing to the child, as the promised seed.

In the clouds above an angel in contemplation of the mystery of the cross ; near him a scroll, on which is written the Greek of this text : " Mysteries, which the angels themselves desire to look into."

The portraits of the two artists, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Mr. Jervais, are here introduced in the character of Shepherds, paying adoration to the newborn Saviour.

Choir service is performed every day in this chapel, at 11 in the forenoon and 5 in the afternoon.

Near the chapel is a noble cloister, which constitutes a quadrangle, 146 feet in length on two sides, and 105 the other two, with a lawn in the area.

The Hall, which is situated at the north-east side of the quadrangle, is of excellent proportion, being 78 feet in length, 33 in breadth, and 43 in height. Its wainscot, which was erected about the reign of Henry VIII. is particularly curious, and over the high table, at the upper end, is an original painting of Annibal Carracci, presented to this college by the Earl of Radnor. The subject of this piece is the Adoration of the Shepherds, The virgin, angels, and shepherds are represented as jointly celebrating

the Nativity, in the divine hymn of "Glory to God in the highest." The composition and drawing are admirable; and the force and spirit of the shepherds are finely contrasted by the elegance and grace of the virgin, and attending angels. The style of the landscape is likewise great, and the colouring warm, but grave and solemn. This valuable piece, it is said, was once in the possession of that judicious collector M. Colbert, minister to Louis XIV. This hall is likewise adorned with the portraits of the munificent founder, William of Wykeham; William of Wainfleet, founder of Magdalene College; and Henry Chichely, founder of All Soul's College.

The two rooms of which the library before mentioned consists, are 70 feet long, and 22 broad, and are well furnished with books, and likewise a valuable collection of manuscripts.

In this quadrangle is the entrance into the garden court, which, by means of a succession of retiring wings, displays itself gradually on the approach to the garden, from which it is separated by a grand iron palisade, 180 feet in length. This court has a noble effect from the mount in the garden; and the prospect is still farther improved by the Gothic spires and battlements which overlook the new building from the founder's court. It began to be erected in the year 1682, at the expense of the college, assisted by many liberal contributions.

Great part of the garden, as well as some parts of the college, is surrounded by the city wall; which from the circumstance of its serving as a fence or boundary to the college precincts, is here preserved entire, with its battlements and bastions, to a considerable extent. On the south side is a pleasant bowling-green, shaded to the west by a row of elms, and on the east by tall sycamores, the branches of which, being interwoven and incorporated with each other from end to end, are justly admired as a natural curiosity.

This college was founded by William Wykeham,

a native of Wykeham, a small town in Hampshire. Besides other ample preferments to which he was advanced by the favour of Edward the Third, he was constituted keeper of the privy seal, bishop of Winchester, and lord high chancellor of England. Having liberally maintained seventy students in several halls of the university, for some years, he obtained a charter to found a college in Oxford, for a warden, and 70 poor scholars. The foundation stone was laid on the 5th day of March, in the year 1379, the college entirely finished in the year 1386, and on the 14th day of April, in the same year, the society took possession of it. In the following year he founded another noble college at Winchester, for the liberal support of a warden, three chaplains, one schoolmaster, one usher, 70 scholars, &c. and ordained it to be a perpetual seminary for supplying the vacancies of his college at Oxford. This illustrious patron of literature and virtue crowned the beneficence of his life by bequeathing, in his last will, legacies to the amount of 6000*l.* (an immense sum in those days) for various charitable purposes. He survived the foundation of his college several years, and died September the 27th, in the year 1404.

The principal benefactors to this college are, John de Buckingham, bishop of Lincoln, in the year 1388. Thomas Beckington, in the year 1440; Thomas Jane, in the year 1494; Clement Harding, in the year 1507; Wareham, archbishop of Canterbury; Shirebourne, bishop of Chichester; John Smith; William Fleshmonger, with many others.

This college, which is dedicated to St. Mary Winton, has been called New College from its first foundation; being at that time an object of public curiosity, and far superior, in point of extent and grandeur, to any college that had then appeared; Merton being, before this, perhaps, the most splendid in the University, though at that time by no means adorned with buildings as at present.

The greater part of St. Mary's college is still

remaining, although now converted into stables, a meeting-house for Methodists, &c. It may be added, that very considerable architectural remains, appearing to be those of a monastic structure, and now used as livery stables, are to be seen opposite to Magdalen Church.

St. Martin's Church has been rebuilt since 1819.

In opening a vault in St. Mary's Church for the interment of Mrs. Joy, in 1819, the coffin of Dr. Radcliffe, that most munificent benefactor to the university, was found. The exact spot where he was buried was quite unknown to the present generation until this discovery was made.

The members of New College are, one warden, 70 fellows, 10 chaplains, three clerks, 10 choristers, and one sexton; together with many gentlemen commoners.—Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester.

LINCOLN COLLEGE.—This college, which is situated between All Saint's Church and Exeter College, consists of two quadrangles. The first is formed, exclusive of chambers, by the lodgings of the rector, standing in the south-east angle, and erected by Thomas Beckington, bishop of Bath and Wells, in the year 1465; the library and common room is on the north, and the refectory on the east.

The library, under which is the common room, is small, but neatly decorated, and contains many curious manuscripts, chiefly given by Thomas Gascoigne, in the year 1432. It was finished, as it appears at present, by the liberality of Sir Nathaniel Lloyd, first a commoner of this, and afterwards fellow of All Soul's College, in the year 1738.

The hall was erected by dean Forest, in the year 1636, and was handsomely wainscoted by bishop Crew, in the year 1701, whose arms appear over the middle screen; and those of the rest of the contributors are interspersed about the mouldings. It is 40 feet in length, 25 in breadth, and proportionable in height.

In this court, which forms a square of 80 feet, is

an entrance through the south-side of the second, which is about 70 feet square. On the south-side of this quadrangle is the chapel, which was built by bishop Williams, in the year 1631. The screen is of cedar, elegantly carved; and the windows are of painted glass, complete, and well preserved, though executed in the year 1632: those on the north represent twelve of the prophets; and those on the south, the twelve apostles, as large as life. The east window exhibits a view of the types relative to our Saviour, with their respective completions, viz. 1. From the left hand the Nativity, and under it the History of the Creation, its antitype. 2. Our Lord's Baptism; and under it the passing of the Israelites through the Red Sea. 3. The Jewish Passover; and under it the institution of the Lord's Supper. 4. The Brazen Serpent in the Wilderness; corresponding to Christ on the Cross. 5. Jonah delivered from the Whale's Belly, expressive of Christ's Resurrection. 6. Elijah in the Fiery Chariot, with our Lord's Ascension.

The roof, which consists of compartments in cedar, is embellished with the arms of the different founders and benefactors, and interchangeably enriched with cherubims, palm-branches, and festoons, diversified with painting and gilding. At each end of the desks are placed eight figures of cedar, which are executed with admirable proportion and elegance, they represent Moses, Aaron, the four Evangelists, St. Peter, and St. Paul.

This college was founded in the year 1427, by Richard Flemming, a native of Crofton, in Yorkshire, and bishop of Lincoln, for the maintenance of one rector, seven fellows, and two chaplains; and intended as a seminary for the education of scholars, who should oppose the doctrine of Wickliffe. But the founder dying before he had fully established his little society, the college, left in an indigent condition, with some difficulty subsisted for a few years on the slender endowment which he had

consigned to it, and the addition of some small benefactions afterwards made by others. At length Thomas Rotherham, bishop of Lincoln, more effectually supplied its necessities, by improving both the buildings and its revenues; adding likewise five fellowships, and assigning a new body of statutes, dated 1479; by which, and other services, he so raised Flemming's orphan foundation, as justly to deserve the name of a co-founder.

Among other benefactors to this college are William Dagvyle, mayor of Oxford; William Smyth, bishop of Lincoln, and founder of Brazen-nose College; Edmund Audley, bishop of Salisbury; and Jane Trapps; but the principal benefactor is Nathaniel, Lord Crew, bishop of Durham, who, about the year 1717, added to the headship an annual allocation of 20*l.*; to the ten fellows 10*l.* each; and to the seven scholarships, and bible clerkships, 5*l.* each: besides which, he improved the four college curacies, and also founded 12 exhibitioners, with salaries of 20*l.* per annum each.

The late Dr. Hutchins, who had been many years rector, likewise augmented the incomes of the scholars and exhibitioners.

The Society at present consists of a rector, 12 fellows, 12 exhibitioners, and seven scholars, with a bible clerk; besides independent members.—Visitor, the Bishop of Lincoln.

ALL SOUL'S COLLEGE.—This college, which consists chiefly of two courts, is situated in the High Street, westward of Queen's College. Over the gateway are the statues of the founder, Henry Chichele, and Henry VI.

The first, or Old Court, is a Gothic edifice, 124 feet in length, and 72 in breadth. The chapel, which is on the north side, is a stately pile; and the anti-chapel, in which are some remarkable monuments, is 70 feet long, and 30 broad; the entrance into the inner chapel, which is of the same dimensions, is by a grand flight of marble steps, through a

screen, constructed by Sir Christopher Wren. The spacious environ of the altar consists of the richest red-vein marble. Above is a fine assumption-piece of the founder, by Sir James Thornhill; and the compartment immediately over the communion-table is occupied with a picture painted at Rome, in the year 1711, by the celebrated Mr. Mengs. The subject of this piece is our Saviour's first appearance to Mary Magdalene after his resurrection, which is generally called a *Noli me tangere*, in allusion to the first words of Christ's speech to her. The colouring of this picture is excellent, and there is something extremely amiable, mixed with great dignity, in the countenance and character of the figure of our Saviour; while the mild composure of it is finely contrasted by that ecstasy of joy and astonishment which appears on the face of Mary. On the right and left, at the approach to the altar, are two inimitable urns, by Sir James Thornhill, respectively representing, in their bas-reliefs, the institution of the two sacraments. Between the windows on each side, are figures of saints in chiaro oscuro, larger than life; four of these represent St. Ambrose, St. Jerome, St. Austin, and St. Gregory, the four Latin fathers, to whom the chapel is dedicated. The ceiling is disposed into compartments, embellished with carving and gilding; and the whole has an air of much splendour and dignity.

The hall, which forms one side of an area to the east, is an elegant and modern room; furnished with portraits of the magnificent founder, Colonel Codrington, and Sir Nathaniel Lloyd. At the high table is an historical piece, by Sir James Thornhill, the subject of which is the Finding of the Law. Over the chimney-piece, which is handsomely executed in dove-coloured marble, is a bust of the founder; on one side of which is a bust of Linacre, formerly fellow, a famous physician in the reign of Henry VIII., and on the other, of John Leland, the celebrated antiquarian, who is supposed to have

been a member of this house. Here is also a capital full-length statue of Judge Blackstone, executed by Bacon. The rest of this room is adorned with an admirable series of busts from the antique.

The adjoining buttery is a well-proportioned room, of an oval form, having an arched roof of stone, ornamented with curious workmanship: it was erected at the same time with the hall.

In this quadrangle is a dial, contrived by Sir Christopher Wren, when fellow of the college, which by the help of two half rays, and one whole one for every hour, shews to a minute the time of day; the minutes being marked on the sides of the rays, 15 on each side, and divided into five by a different character.

The second court is a magnificent Gothic quadrangle (or rather an imitation of the Gothic style), of 172 feet in length, and 155 in breadth; on the south are the chapel and hall; on the west a cloister, with a grand-portico; on the north a library; and on the east two superb Gothic towers, in the centre of a series of fine apartments.

The library, which forms the whole north side of this court, is about 200 feet in length, and 32 in breadth, and 40 in height. Its outside is, in correspondence to the rest of the court, Gothic; and the interior is finished in the most splendid and elegant manner, being furnished with two noble arrangements of bookcases, one above the other, supported by Doric and Ionic pilasters; and the upper class, being formed in a superb gallery, surrounds three sides. On the north side is a recess equal to the breadth of the whole room, and in its area is placed a statue of Colonel Codrington, the founder of the library. The ceiling and spaces between the windows are ornamented with the richest stucco, by Mr. Roberts; and over the gallery a series of bronzes, is interchangeably disposed, consisting of vases, and the busts of many eminent men, formerly fellows of this house.

This college was founded in the year 1437, by Henry Chichele, a native of Higham Ferrers, in Northamptonshire, and one of Wykeham's original fellows of New College, and afterwards archbishop of Canterbury; for one warden, 40 fellows, two chaplains, three clerks, and three choristers. It is styled in the charter, "The College of the souls of all faithful people deceased, of Oxford."

The founder, for the more liberal endowment of this society, procured of Henry VI. a grant of the revenues of many of the dissolved alien priories. He expended, besides the purchase money for the site, &c. the sum of 4,545l. 15s. 5d. in the buildings of this college, namely, the present old court, and the original refectory, which, with a cloister since removed, inclosed part of the area of the new quadrangle. At his decease he bequeathed to it 134l. 6s. 8d. and 1000 marks. In his statutes he gives a preference in elections to those candidates who shall prove themselves to be of his blood and kindred. These are said to have multiplied so fast, within the space of 400 years, that it is probable the time is not far off when this society will be entirely filled with his own relations; for it appears, by the *Stemmata Chicheleana*, or pedigrees of the Chicheley family, published in the year 1765; and from the supplement to that collection published in the year 1775, that upwards of 120 of the families of the English peerage, between 50 and 60 of the Scotch and Irish, more than 130 of the English baronetage, with many hundreds of the gentry and commonalty of England, Scotland, and Ireland, may now prove themselves to have descended from the same stock, with the founder of All Souls, viz from his father, Thomas Chicheley, of Higham Ferrers.

The principal benefactors are Colonel Christopher Codrington, governor of the Leeward Islands, formerly fellow, who, besides a valuable collection of books, granted by will 6000l. for building the library, and added 4000l. for purchasing books; Dr. George

Clarke; the late Duke of Wharton, Doddington Greville, Lieutenant Colonel Stewart, and Sir Nathaniel Lloyd. Of the combined munificence of all, or most of these, the second court, above-described, is an illustrious monument.

This college consists of one warden, 40 fellows, two chaplains, three clerks, and six choristers.—Visitor the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A remarkable ceremony was annually celebrated in this college, in commemoration of the discovery of a mallard of an extraordinary size, in a drain or sewer, at the time of digging for the foundation of the walls. An entertainment was provided in the evening of the 14th of January, which was called the Mallard Night, and an excellent old ballad, adapted to ancient music, was sung in remembrance of the mallard. This peculiar custom has given rise to a pamphlet of infinite wit and humour, entitled “A complete Vindication of the Mallard of All Soul’s College, &c.”

MAGDALENE COLLEGE.—This college is situated at the eastern termination of the city, on the borders of the river Charwell. The front gate is of the Doric order, decorated with a statue of the founder. Opposite to this gate is the west front of the college, which is a striking specimen of the Gothic style. The gate under the west window of the chapel is particularly deserving attention, being adorned with five small but elegant figures, that on the right representing the founder; the next William of Wykeham, in whose college at Winchester the founder was schoolmaster; the third is St. Mary Magdalene, to whom the college is dedicated; the fourth is Henry III. who founded the hospital, since converted into this college; and the last St. John the Baptist, by whose name the said hospital was called.

On the left are the lodgings of the president, much enlarged and improved; and nearly contiguous to these, beneath a tower, whose sides are adorn-

ed with four of the persons above-mentioned, is a stately gateway, which was the original entrance into the college, but since disused.

From this area is an entrance into a cloister, which surrounds a venerable old quadrangle. In the south are the Chapel and Hall, the entrance to the former of which is on the right hand at entering the cloister. The anti-chapel is spacious, supported with two staff-moulded pillars, extremely light, where a new pulpit of excellent workmanship, in the Gothic style, together with seats on each side, have within these few years been erected. In the west window are some fine remains of glass, painted in chiaro-obscuro. The subject is the Resurrection, and the design is after one invented and executed by Schwartz, for the wife of William, duke of Bavaria, more than 200 years since, which was afterwards engraved by Sadeler. The choir is solemn and handsomely decorated. The windows, each of which contain six figures, almost as large as life, of primitive fathers, saints, martyrs, and apostles, are finely painted in the taste and about the time of that just described: these windows formerly belonged to the anti-chapel, the two near the altar excepted, which were lately done, being all removed hither in the year 1741. In the confusion of the Civil Wars the original choir windows were taken down and concealed. They did not, however, escape the rage of fanaticism and ignorance, for being unluckily discovered by a party of Cromwell's troopers, they were entirely destroyed. The altar-piece of this chapel, which represents the Resurrection, was executed by Isaac Fuller, about a century since. This painting is elegantly celebrated by Mr. Addison, formerly a student of this house, in a Latin poem, printed in the *Musæ Anglicanæ*. Under this piece is another admirable picture, of our Lord bearing the Cross, supposed to be the work of Morales. It was taken at Vigo; and being brought into England by the late duke of Ormond, it came

into the possession of William Freeman, Esq. who gave it to the society. The altar is fitted up in the modern style, with a well-executed wainscot, and columns of the Corinthian order. Choir service is performed in this chapel at ten and four every day; except that on Sundays and holidays the morning service issuing at eight, as it is in all the choirs of the University.

The hall is a stately Gothic room, well proportioned and handsomely finished; and decorated with four whole-length portraits, viz. of the founder, Dr. Butler, William Freeman, and prince Rupert; and two half-lengths, viz. bishop Warner, and Dr. Hammond.

The interior part of the cloister is adorned with hieroglyphics, to unriddle which great pains have been taken; some, however, affirm, that they are nothing more than the licentious invention of the mason; while others as warmly contend that they contain a complete system of academical discipline: of these hieroglyphics, Mr. Reeks, formerly fellow of this college, has given the following account, in which the allegory is well preserved.

“Beginning at the south-west corner, the two first figures we meet are, the *lion* and the *pelican*; the former of these is the emblem of *courage* and *vigilance*, the latter of *parental tenderness and affection*: both of them together express to us the complete character of a good governor of a college. Accordingly they are placed under the window of those lodgings which originally belonged to the president, as the instructions they convey ought to regulate his conduct.

“Going on to the right hand, on the other side of the gateway, are four figures, viz. the *school-master*, the *lawyer*, the *physician*, and the *divine*. These are ranged along the outside of the library, and represent the duties and business of the students of the house. By means of learning in general, they are to be introduced to one of the three learned professions; or

el e, as hinted to us by a figure with *cap* and *bells* in the corner, they must turn out fools in the end.

“ We come now to the north side of the quadrangle, and here the three first figures represent the history of *David*; his conquest over the *lion* and *Goliath*; from whence we are taught not to be discouraged at any difficulties that may stand in our way, as the *vigour of youth* will easily enable us to surmount them. The next figure to these is that of the *hippopotamus*, or *river horse*, carrying his young-one upon his shoulders. This is the emblem of a good tutor, or fellow of a college, who is set to watch over the youth of the society, and by whose prudence they are to be led through the dangers of their first entrance into the world. The figure immediately following represents *sobriety*, or *temperance*, that most necessary virtue of a collegiate life. The whole remaining train of figures are the vices we are instructed to avoid. Those next to *temperance* are the opposite vices of *gluttony* and *drunkenness*; then follow the *lucantropos*, the *hyæna*, and *panther*, representing *violence*, *fraud*, and *treachery*; the *griffin* representing *covetousness*, and the next figure, *anger*, or *moroseness*; the *dog*, the *dragon*, the *deer*, *flattery*, *envy*, and *timidity*; and the three last, the *manti-chora*, the *boxers*, and the *lamia*, *pride*, *contention*, and *lust*.

“ We have here, therefore, a complete and instructive lesson for the use of a society dedicated to the advancement of religion and learning; and on this plan we may suppose the founder of Magdalene, thus speaking, by means of these figures, to the students of his college.

“ It is your duty, who live under the care of the president, whose *vigilance* and *parental tenderness* are the proper qualifications to support the government of my house, attentively to pursue your studies, in your *several professions*; and so avoid the *follies* of an idle, unlettered, and dissipated course of life. You may possibly meet with many *difficulties* at your

first setting out in this road ; but these every *stripling* will be able to overcome by *courage* and *perseverance*. And remember, when you are advanced beyond these difficulties, that it is your duty to lend your assistance to those who come after you, and whose education is committed to your care. You are to be an example to them of *sobriety* and *temperance* ; so shall you guard them from falling into the snares of *excess* and *debauchery*. You shall teach them, that the vices with which the world abounds, *cruelty*, *fraud*, *avarice*, *anger*, and *envy*, as well as the more simple ones of abject *flattery* and *cowardice*, are not to be countenanced within these hallowed retirements. And let it be your endeavour to avoid *pride* and *contention*, the parents of *faction*, and in your situation the worst and most unnatural of all factions, the *faction of a cloister*. And lastly, you will complete the *collegiate character*, if you crown all your other acquirements with the unspotted *purity* and *chastity* of your lives and conduct."

On the north side of this court, a narrow passage leads to a beautiful opening, one side of which is bounded by a noble and elegant edifice in the modern taste, consisting of three stories, 300 feet in length. The front rests on an arcade, whose roof is finely stuccoed. Through the centre of this building is an avenue into the grove or paddock, which is formed into many delightful walks and lawns, and stocked with about 40 head of deer.

Besides this paddock, there is a meadow, within the precincts of the college, consisting of about 13 acres, surrounded by a pleasant walk, called the Water-walk, the whole circuit of which is washed by branches of the Charwell, and is shaded with hedges and lofty trees, which in one part grow wild, and in the other are cut and disposed regularly. A beautiful opening has lately been made on the west side into the college grove, by demolishing the old embattled wall, on the banks of the river.

This college was founded by William Patten, a

native of Wainfleet, in Lincolnshire, who was educated at Winchester School, and afterwards took his degrees at Oxford. He was first preferred to the mastership of Winchester School; from thence made provost of Eton College, advanced to the bishopric of Winchester in the year 1447, and constituted lord high chancellor of England in the year 1449.

He founded this college in the year 1456, for the support of one president, 40 fellows, 30 demies, eligible from any school or county, a divinity lecturer, a schoolmaster and usher, four chaplains, one organist, eight clerks, and 16 choristers. It was erected on the site of St. John's Hospital, in commemoration of which a sermon is annually preached in the college on St. John's day. Part of the original walls of the said hospital are yet to be seen on the south side of the chapel.

The original endowment of this college was most munificent, which, however, has been augmented by many considerable benefactors: the most distinguished of whom are Henry VI. William Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, Claymond, Morwent, &c. It has been supposed by some writers that Cardinal Wolsey, when bursar of the college, in the year 1492, erected the tower, which is exceeded by none in strength, height, and beauty, and contains a musical peal of bells.

The College at present consists of a president, 40 fellows, 30 demies, a divinity lecturer, a school-master and usher, four chaplains, an organist, eight clerks, and 16 choristers. The whole number of students, including gentlemen commoners, is about 120. Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester.

To the south of this college is the BOTANICAL GARDEN, the grand entrance to which is an elegant piece of architecture, from a design of Inigo Jones, and executed by Nicholas Stone. It is in the Doric order, ornamented with rustic work, and likewise adorned with a bust of the founder, Lord Danby, a statute of Charles I. and another of Charles II. and

on the face of the corona and friese is the following inscription, viz. "*Gloria Dei optimi maximi Honori Caroli I. Regis in Usum Academiæ et Reipublicæ Henricus Comes Danby, Anno 1632.*" This inscription is likewise on the garden front. The Garden, which contains five acres, is surrounded by a noble wall, with portals in the rustic style, at proper distances. The ground is divided into four quarters, with a broad walk down the middle. At the right and left, near the entrance, are two neat and convenient green-houses, which are stocked with a valuable collection of exotics: the quarters are filled with a complete series of such plants as grow naturally, disposed in their respective classes. Eastward of the garden, without the wall, is an excellent hot-house; where various plants, brought from the warmer climates, are raised.

This garden was instituted by the Earl of Danby, in the year 1632, who having replenished it with plants for the use of the students in botany, settled an annual revenue for its support. It has been since much improved by Dr. Sherrard, who assigned 3000*l.* for the maintenance of a professor of botany, Dr. Sibthorpe, the late learned professor, who resided several years in the East, likewise enriched the collection with many new articles.

BRAZEN NOSE COLLEGE.—This college, which constitutes the west side of the Radcliffe Square, consists of two courts; the first, which is the original one, comprises the old lodgings of the principal, the chambers of the fellows and students, and the refectory, the latter of which is elegantly fitted up, and adorned with portraits and paintings on glass, of the two founders. Over its portico are two antique busts: the one of Alfred, who built Little University Hall, or King's Hall; on the site of which the present college is partly erected; and the other of John Ergena, a Scotchman, who first read lectures in the said hall, in the year 882. In this court is a piece of sculpture, supposed to represent the murder

of Abel by Cain, and over the door leading up to the common room, which was originally the chapel, is the following inscription :—

“ Anno Xti. 1509, et Reg. Hen. 8 pro.
Nomine divino Lyncoln præsul, quoque Sutton,
Hanc posuere petram regis ad imperium.”

The entrance to the second court is through a passage on the left hand of the gate of the first. The cloisters on the east side support the library, which is a light pleasant room, ornamented with a most elegant ceiling, and containing a respectable collection of books. On the south side of the court stands the chapel, which is at once neat and splendid. The roof, which is a frame of wood, is an admirable imitation of gothic stone work, and the altar, with its decorations, is particularly deserving of attention. It was finished in the year 1667, as was the whole court. The east window of this chapel is enriched with compartments of painted glass, finely executed by Pearson, from drawings of the late celebrated Mr. Mortimer. In the Anti-Chapel is an elegant monument to the memory of the late principal, Dr. Shippen, who was a great benefactor to this college.

An elegant house, connected with the college, and fronting the High Street has been lately fitted up at a considerable expense for the accommodation of the principal.

This college was founded in the year 1509, by Richard Smith, bishop of Lincoln, and Sir Richard Sutton, knight, of Presbury, in Cheshire, for the maintenance of one principal and 12 fellows. To this number succeeding benefactions have added 8 fellows, 32 scholars, and 15 exhibitioners. The late principal, Dr. Shippen, likewise procured it several advowsons.

With respect to the very singular name of this college, it appears, that the founders erected their house on the site of two ancient hostels or halls, viz. Little University Hall, and Brazen-nose Hall. The latter of

these acquired its name from some students removed to it from a seminary in the temporary university of Stamford, so denominated on account of an iron ring fixed in a nose of brass, and serving as a knocker to the gate.

The present members of this house are, one principal, 20 fellows, 32 scholars, and four exhibitors; together with about 40 or 50 students. Visitor, the bishop of Lincoln.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE.—This college, which is situated near the back gate of Christ Church, consists of one handsome quadrangle, with some elegant appendant buildings. The entrance to the quadrangle (in which there is a peculiar appearance of neatness) is by a beautiful Gothic gateway. On the east stands the hall, which is handsomely wainscotted, and well proportioned, with beautiful Gothic rafters. In the midst of this court is a curious column, exhibiting a cylindrical dial; the construction of which is esteemed a valuable piece of old gnomonics; and was constructed in the year 1605, by Charles Turnbull, one of the fellows. To the south of this court is an elegant pile of building of the Ionic order, which fronts Christ's Church meadow, and was erected by Dr. Turner, formerly president, in the year 1706. There is likewise another structure, of the modern kind, near the hall, appropriated to gentlemen commoners, whose number the founder has confined to six. This building was erected in the year 1737.

The Chapel is 70 feet in length and 25 in breadth, with a screen and altar-piece of cedar: and over the communion table is a painting by Reubens of the Adoration, presented by Sir Richard Worsley.

The library, which is well furnished with books, is remarkable for a collection of pamphlets from the Reformation to the Revolution; an English bible, said to be of higher antiquity than that of Wickliffe; and a vellum roll, which exhibits the pedigree of the royal family, with the collateral branches, from Alfred to Edward I. richly decorated with their arms

blazoned and signed by the kings at arms; but the most striking curiosity is an ancient manuscript history of the bible in French, illuminated with a series of beautiful paintings, illustrating the sacred story. It was given by General Oglethorpe, formerly member of this house. Here is shown also the crosier of the founder, which, although a fine specimen of antique workmanship, is by no means equal to that of Wykeham at New College. Here is likewise preserved part of the founder's chapel plate, consisting of two platters, a golden chalice of very elegant form, and a vase of silver gilt, with its cover curiously wrought, and enriched with aname-thyst and pendant pearls, together with his episcopal ring.

This college was founded in the year 1516, and endowed with lands, of four hundred pounds per annum, by Richard Fox, who was successively bishop of Exeter, Bath and Wells, Durham, and Winchester; and lord privy seal to king Henry VII. and VIII. It was originally endowed for the maintenance of one president, 20 fellows, 20 scholars, two chaplains, two clerks, and two choristers. The statutes ordain, that the fellows should be elected from the scholars, and the latter from the counties and dioceses following, viz. two from Surrey, three from Hampshire, one from Durham, two from Bath and Wells, two from Exeter, two from Lincolnshire, two from Gloucestershire, one from Wiltshire, or in defect of a candidate, the diocese of Sarum; one from Bedfordshire, two from Kent, one from Oxfordshire, and one from Lancashire.

The principal benefactor appears to have been Hugh Oldham, chaplain to Margaret, countess of Richmond, and afterwards bishop of Exeter; for the founder having intended his society as a seminary to the monks of St. Swithin's cathedral at Westminster, Oldham persuaded him to change his design, and to make it a college of secular students on the academic plan; contributing at the same time 600 marks for the completion of the building, besides

certain estates for the augmentation of its revenue. William Frost, the founder's steward; John Claymond, the first president; and Robert Morwent, the second; with some others, have likewise given lands, &c. Arthur Parsons, M. D. sometime fellow, also gave 3000l. towards purchasing advowsons.

According to Tanner, in his Not. Mon. the endowment of this college amounted, in the year 1534, to the yearly value of 382l. 8s. 9d.

The present members are, one president, 20 fellows, two chaplains, 20 scholars, four exhibitioners, and six gentlemen commoners. Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester.

CHRISTCHURCH COLLEGE.—This college consists of four courts or squares, viz. The great quadrangle; Peck-water-square, Canterbury-court, the Chaplain's court, with some other buildings.

The stately front of this college is extended to the length of 382 feet, and terminated at either end by two corresponding turrets. In the centre is the grand entrance, whose Gothic proportions and ornaments are remarkably magnificent. Over it is a beautiful tower planned by Sir Christopher Wren, and erected by Dr. Fell: this tower contains the great bell called *Tom*, (the weight of which is 17,000 lbs. Great Tom originally belonged to Oseney Abbey in this city, but was re-cast in 1680. It bears this inscription, *Magnus Thomas Clusius Oxoniensis*. When this bell tolls at nine in the evening, the scholars, according to the University statutes, must retire to their respective colleges. The celebrated glee, entitled "The Merry Christ Church Bells," was written by Dean Aldrich.

The great quadrangle is 264 by 261 feet in the clear; the east, north, and west sides, with part of the south, consist of the lodgings of the dean, the canons, and the students, &c. The greatest part of the south side is formed by the Hall, which is considerably elevated above the rest of the buildings, and the whole finished with a ballustrade of stone, and,

taken as a detached structure, is a noble specimen of ancient magnificence. The south, east, and part of the west sides, were erected by cardinal Wolsey, as was the magnificent kitchen to the south of the hall. The north, and what remained of the west side of this court, was finished in the year 1665. By the marks on the wall, it has been supposed by some that this area was formerly surrounded by a cloister: indeed, it is evident that a cloister was designed; but it does not appear that it was ever executed.

Round the whole of this area is a spacious terrace walk, and in the centre a bason and fountain, with a statue of Mercury. On the inside, over the grand entrance, is a statue of queen Anne; and over the arch, in the north-east angle, another of bishop Fell; opposite which, at the south-east, is a fine one of cardinal Wolsey, executed by Francis Bird, of Oxford. Under this statue of the cardinal, is the entrance to the hall, by a spacious and stately staircase of stone, covered with a beautiful roof, built in the year 1030, which, though very broad, is supported by a small single pillar of fine proportion. The staircase and entrance into the hall have lately been altered at a considerable expense, under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, with a view of rendering them more conformable to the rest of the buildings. The hall is probably the largest, and certainly the most superb of any college-hall in the kingdom: it has eight windows on each side, is 150 feet in length, and its ceiling 50 feet high. This room has been refitted at a great expense, and is adorned with the portraits of eminent persons, educated at, or connected with the college. The roof is a noble frame of rafter work, beautified with near 300 coats of arms, properly blazoned; and enriched with other decorations of painting, carving, and gilding, in the Gothic taste.

The church of this college, which is the cathedral church of the Bishop of Oxford, is situated to the east of the grand quadrangle. It is an ancient vene-

able structure, and was originally the church of St. Frideswida's monastery, on or near the site of which the college is erected. The roof of the choir is a beautiful piece of stone work, erected by Cardinal Wolsey, who likewise rebuilt, or refitted the spire, as it now stands, the original one having been much loftier. The east window is elegantly painted by Mr. Price, senior, from a design of Sir James Thornhill, representing the Epiphany. In the aisle, on the north of the choir, which was the dormitory of St. Frideswida, is an ancient monument, said to be the tomb of that saint, who died in the year 740. At the west end of the same aisle is a painted window, executed by Isaac Oliver, and given by him to the college in the year 1700; the subject is St. Peter delivered out of prison by the angel. Many remains of painted glass, remarkable for strength and brilliancy of colour, appear in different parts of the church; for the windows, having been for the most part destroyed in the year 1651, some of the fragments have been lately collected, and disposed with great taste into complete windows or compartments. The tower contains ten musical bells, brought hither from Oseney Abbey, as was the great bell called Tom, above-mentioned. In this cathedral choir-service is performed at ten and five every day. This church was designed by the cardinal for private masses and theological exercises only; the foundation stones of the church or chapel intended for public service, being still visible in the gardens, on the north side of the great quadrangle, which, as Wood tells us, would have been an august and immense work. In the Chapter House, which is a beautiful Gothic room, are two portraits, admirably painted, and in the most perfect preservation, which are said to have belonged to Henry VIII. the one representing an elderly, the other a young man, both in black bonnets, and as large as life: on the back of one is the following mark, No. H. R. 2, on the other No. H. R. 25. The

former is supposed to be Frederick the Wise, duke of Saxony, and the latter Philip, Arch-duke of Austria.

The Cathedral is entered by a door way of Saxon architecture, and specimens of the same style interspersed with alterations by Norman builders are evident in various directions. The pillars of the nave are beautifully executed; and the choir has a Gothic roof of splendid tracery work, constructed either by Cardinal Wolsey or Bishop King, and was paved with black and white marble in 1680, at which time the old stalls were removed and the present erected. The chapel in which Latin prayers are read opens into the eastern cloister. This noble room is believed to have been built in the reign of Henry III.

Christ Church Cathedral, is in every point of view, one of the most interesting objects connected with the college. This building has undergone some important alterations, among which the present spire was constructed by Wolsey; but the chief parts can be historically traced to the reign of Henry I. and the style of architecture proves that in reality it owes its foundation to a much earlier period. The church is cruciform, with a square tower, surmounted by a spiral steeple, rising in the centre. Though always much inferior to the splendid edifice of Oseney Abbey, it was originally more extensive than at present. Fifty feet at the west end, with the whole west side of the cloister, were pulled down by Wolsey when he laid the foundation of his college. The present length of the building, from east to west, is 154 feet, and the aisle that crosses from north to south is 102 feet long. The height of the roof in the choir, is 37 feet and a half, and in the western part of the structure 41 feet and a half.

The Dormitory, situate to the north of the choir, contains several very ancient monuments, among which the following deserve particular notice:—A large altar tomb, believed to be that of St. Frideswida, surmounted by a shrine. On the flat surface of this monument are the marks of some brasses now

lost, two of which appear to have represented human figures at full length. The shrine in which the presumed relic is preserved, is lofty, and richly adorned with tracery work. The lower division is of stone, and the two upper compartments are of wood carved in the same fashion. This supposed Holy Virgin died in October 740, and her shrine is said to have been first placed in a chapel on the south side of the church; but being nearly destroyed, in the conflagration caused by the assault of the Danes in 1002, it was neglected till 1180, when it was removed to its present situation, and was visited by such crowds of the superstitious, that the stone steps of a retired oratory at the back of the shrine were considerably worn by the tread of the devotees. A new shrine was raised in the year 1280; but this was destroyed in the reign of Henry VIII., so that the presumed bones of the saint, which were not interred, but merely deposited on the shrine, are supposed by Wood to have been irrecoverably lost, whilst those afterwards shewn in two silken bags were only feigned. However, these mouldering fragments remained the admiration of many devotees till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when they were again brought into notice by the following singular circumstance:—When Peter Martyr, the Reformer, visited England under the protection of the Duke of Somerset and Archbishop Cranmer, he became a canon of Christ Church. Martyr went abroad on the accession of Queen Mary, and died at Zurich; but his wife Catherine died at Oxford, and was buried near the monument of St. Frideswida. In the reign of Queen Mary one of those absurd posthumous trials not unusual in the early ages of church controversy, took place with respect to this female heretic, and her body was taken from this consecrated place of sepulchre and contemptuously buried beneath a dunghill, where it lay till 1561, when it was restored to its former situation with much ceremony. At the same time the reputed bones of St. Frideswida

were removed from the silken bags in which they had lately reposed, and were ordered to be mixed and interred in the same grave with those of Martyr's wife, to prevent the power of distinguishing them, should the age of superstition return. Near to the shrine of St. Frideswida, is the rich monument of Lady Elizabeth Montacute, who died in 1353, with her effigy in the costume of the time. Her dress, even down to the wrists, is enamelled with gold, and the different colours expressive of nobility. In the same range is the tomb of Guimond, the first prior, with his effigy in a recumbent posture, the feet resting on a lion; he had been Chaplain to Henry the First, and died in 1149. No inscription remains on either of these monuments; but many eminent names of a more recent date stand recorded on various contiguous tablets. The subjects of the painted windows that are preserved, are the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; Christ disputing with the Doctors; and the story of Jonah. Another window in the north aisle exhibits the delivery of Peter from prison, executed by Isaac Oliver at the age of 84, and a portrait on glass of Robert King, the first Bishop of Oxford. This was removed during the rage of the civil war; the colouring is extremely vivid, and the whole piece finely executed.

Few rooms are more impressive than the Hall of Christ Church, which was entirely rebuilt under the direction of Cardinal Wolsey. This grand refectory is 115 feet long, by 40 in width; and is fifty feet in height. The ceiling is of Irish oak, beautifully carved, with such occasional insertions of gilding as give alternate lustre and relief, while they do not detract from the sober majesty of the general effect. The windows are of intersected Gothic, and one in a recess on the southern side is among the finest specimens of that mode of architectural disposal. At the upper end of the hall is an ascent of three steps, and the whole flooring is composed of stone. The sides are of pannelled wainscot, but the great ornament of

these consists in an extensive collection of portraits; among the most striking is an original half length of Wolsey, with a perspective view of the Hall through a window in a corner of the picture. A fine whole length of Henry VIII. Queen Elizabeth drawn with an immense hoop, a slender waist, and the sleeves of her dress thickly padded. The face is that of middle life, and is far from unpleasing. She has in her hand one of those fans of feathers which were constructed during her reign with so much cost and delicacy. This picture was presented by Lord Dartmouth, in whose family it had been long preserved; but the artist was unknown. Compton, Bishop of London, by Sir Peter Lely, is a fine portrait, the figure sedate, and the colouring chaste. Bishop Saunderson is an original by Riley. Dr. Busby, his hand on a book, and a pupil in attendance; the face possesses more of judgment than severity; the colouring is warm, and the whole picture replete with character and animation.

The roof of the stair-way which leads to the hall, is vaulted and ornamented with bold and beautiful varieties of gothic embellishment. This roof is supported by a single pillar, calculated to surprise on account of its slender dimensions, rather than to add correspondent splendour to the effect of the whole.

Under the hall is the common room, in which are several good portraits, and a bust of Dr. Busby by Rysbrack.

Peck-water court is situated to the north-east of the great quadrangle, and is perhaps the most elegant edifice in the University. It consists of three sides, each of which has 15 windows in front. The lower story is rustic, the second and attic are of the height and dimensions of the Ionic; its architect was Dean Aldrich; and its principal founder Dr. Radcliffe, a canon of this church, assisted by other contributions. Opposite to this court is a sumptuous library, 141 feet in length, supported by pillars of the Corinthian order. It was first intended to have

erected this structure on piazzas, which would have given it a lighter air: in the place of which, apartments are formed for the reception of General Guise's valuable collection of paintings, lately bequeathed to the college, and for the residue of the books, which could not be placed in the upper room. The south side of this library is furnished with elegant book-cases, extending to the whole length of the room, with a gallery above; and between the windows, on the opposite side, is likewise placed a series of book-cases, respectively assigned to the several sciences; over each of which there are beautiful festoons in stucco, charged with symbolical imagery, severally representing the particular branch of literature contained beneath: the ceiling is likewise richly ornamented with masterly compartments of stucco. The wainscoting, &c. which is of the finest Norway oak, together with the bannisters of the gallery, are all highly finished with carving. On a pedestal, in a recess on the north side, is placed an admirable whole length statue of Locke, formerly a student of this house, by Roubilliac. At each end are likewise marble busts, one of Dr. Boulter, late primate of Ireland; the other of Dr. Friend, late master of Westminster school. Towards the south of the library are several apartments, likewise furnished with book-cases, and cabinets for manuscripts.

East of this quadrangle is Canterbury Court, originally Canterbury Hall; being formerly a distinct college, founded in the year 1363, by Islip, archbishop of Canterbury, but being afterwards dissolved was taken into this foundation. The ancient buildings of this court, which were falling into decay, have been lately taken down, and, by the munificence of a late primate of Ireland, and other liberal benefactors, the whole of the court and gateway has been elegantly rebuilt, after the design, and under the direction of Mr. Wyatt.

The Chaplain's Court is situated to the south-east of Wolsey's quadrangle, on the north side of which

is a light Gothic edifice, formerly belonging to St. Frideswida's monastery, and named St. Lucia's Chapel. It was lately used for a library, but is now converted into chambers for the use of the society. To the south of this chapel is an elegant range of buildings, commonly styled Fell's, which fronts a noble walk, belonging to the college, called White Walk, upwards of two furlongs in length, and 50 feet wide, shaded on each side with lofty elms, and commanding a delightful prospect of the adjacent meadows, the river, and the neighbouring villages.

The court of the Grammar School is situated to the south of the great quadrangle, having the hall on the north side of it; under part of the hall is the spacious common room, in which there is an excellent bust, by Rysbrack, of Dr. Busby, formerly master of Westminster School, and a considerable benefactor to this college: this room likewise contains pictures of several masters of the same school, and other eminent members of this society. On the south side of the court is the New Anatomical Theatre, erected and endowed by the late Dr. Lee, physician to King George II. at the expense of 20,000*l*. In it is a fine collection of anatomical preparations, injections, &c.

Christ Church was originally founded by Cardinal Wolsey, in the year 1524, for the support of a dean, a subdean, 100 canons, 10 public readers, 13 chaplains, 12 clerks, 16 choristers, besides officers and servants. But while the cardinal was completing this design, having actually admitted 18 canons, about the year 1529, he fell into disgrace; when King Henry VIII. seized upon the foundation, which he suspended till the year 1532, when he re-established it under the name of King Henry the Eighth's College, for one dean and 12 canons. This foundation was, however, suppressed in the year 1545, by the same king, who the next year removed hither the episcopal see first established in Oseney Abbey, and constituted the church of St. Frideswida a cathedral,

by the name of Christ's Church. At the same time, on part of Wolsey's original revenues, he established a dean, eight canons, eight chaplains, eight clerks, eight choristers, and an organist; together with 60 students, 40 grammar-scholars, a schoolmaster, and usher. In this form the foundation has remained ever since, except that queen Elizabeth, in the year 1561, converted the forty grammar-scholars into academical students: ordering at the same time, that their vacancies should be supplied from Westminster school. Thus 100 students were established, to which number William Thurstone, Esq. in the year 1668, added one.

The benefactors to this college have been numerous; the principal of whom are Dean Fell and Lady Holford, who gave several exhibitions for scholars educated at the Charter-House; and the late Dr. Lee, above mentioned.

This college, or church, consists at present of one dean, eight canons, eight chaplains, eight singing-men, one organist, eight choristers, 101 students, besides many independent members; the whole number being about 180.—Visitor, the King.

TRINITY COLLEGE.—This college is situated opposite the Turl, a spacious avenue, fenced from the street by an handsome iron palisade, with folding gates, adorned on the outside with the arms of the Earl of Guilford, and on the inside with those of the founder, leads to the front of the college, which consists of the chapel, and the gateway with its tower. Over the gate, in stone, are the arms of the founder, surrounded with a wreath of laurel, and supported by the genii of Fame.

The approach to this college has lately been widened, so as to exhibit the whole front of the chapel towards the street, which produces a very noble, and beautiful effect.

In the first court are the Chapel, Hall, Library, and Lodgings of the president. The chapel possesses a peculiar elegance, which results from an as-

semblage of the most finished, and yet the most simple ornaments. The carvings about the screen and altar, which are of cedar, by the masterly hand of Gibbons, are finished in an exquisite taste. The altar-piece, which consists of a beautiful specimen of needle-work, representing the Resurrection, was executed and presented to the college, by Miss Althea Fanshawe, of Shiplake Hill, near Henley-upon-Thames. It is worked in worsted, with exquisite taste and brilliancy of colouring, from the painting by West in Windsor Chapel. Under an alcove near the altar, is a fine Gothic tomb, on which are the recumbent figures of the liberal founder and his lady, in alabaster, in the finest preservation. The ceiling of this chapel is covered with a bold and beautiful stucco, and in the midst of it is an Ascension, which is executed in a good style, by Peter Berchet, an eminent French painter.

The hall is spacious and well-proportioned, partly in the Gothic style, and adorned with a portrait of the founder. The ceiling has been lately enriched with stucco; and, by other decorations and improvements, this room is rendered both elegant and commodious. Over the chimney-piece are the arms of Queen Mary and King Philip, painted by Cotton, with the date 1554.

In the library is shewn a valuable manuscript of Euclid; being a translation from the Arabic into Latin, before the discovery of the original Greek, by Adelardus Bathionensis, in the year 1150. It was given by the founder, together with several other manuscripts, who likewise furnished this library with many costly printed volumes, chiefly in folio, at that time esteemed no mean collection.

In the library windows are many compartments of old painted glass, but much injured by the presbyterians in the grand rebellion; the painted glass in the original of this college, which is reported to have been remarkably fine, was entirely destroyed by the same spirit of sacrilegious and barbarous

zeal: still farther exasperated at the following inscription, written in the great east window over the altar, "*Orate pro anima Domini Thomæ Pope, Militis aurati, Fundatoris hujus Collegii.*"

In the President's lodgings are two good pictures of the founder, copied from Hans Holbein, but ancient: and two large original pictures, both on board, of Adams, bishop of Limerick, and Wright, bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, in the reigns of James I. and Charles I., formerly fellows; together with a head of Thomas Allen, fellow, a famous mathematician and antiquary, by Dobson; and in the bursary is a curious old picture of Lady Elizabeth Paulet, the founder's third wife, supposed to be painted by Sir Antonio More, about the year 1570—Also three other valuable portraits of the founder and the presidents Kettel and Bathurst.

The second court is an elegant pile, planned by Sir Christopher Wren, and said, by Wood, to be one of the first pieces of modern architecture that appeared in the University. It consists of three sides, with an opening to the gardens on the east, which has a singular and most agreeable effect.

The gardens are remarkably beautiful, consisting of two divisions, which furnish alternate shade and sunshine; the first or larger division being thrown into open grass plats, while the southern division consists of shady walks, with a wilderness of flowering shrubs, and disposed into serpentine-paths. The centre walk is terminated by a well-wrought iron-gate, with the founder's arms at the top, supported by two piers.

This college was founded in the year 1554, by Sir Thomas Pope, knt. of Tittenhanger, in Hertfordshire, treasurer of the Court of Augmentations, in the reign of Henry VIII. privy counsellor to the same king, and to Queen Mary, and a singular friend of Sir Thomas More; for the maintenance and education of a president, 12 fellows, and 12 scholars. The founder directs, that the scholars,

who succeed to the fellowships, shall be chosen from his manors; but if no candidates appear under such qualifications, on the day of election, which is on Trinity Monday, that they shall be supplied from any county in England. He also appoints, that no more than two natives of the same county shall be fellows of his college at the same time, Oxfordshire excepted, from which county five are permitted.

The principal and almost only benefactor is Dr. Ralph Bathurst, formerly president; who expended 1900*l.* in rebuilding the chapel, the ancient one having been miserably defaced during the Civil Wars.

This college at present consists of one president, 12 fellows, and 12 scholars, instituted by the founder. These, with the independent members, amount to about 90.—Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.—This College is situated on a retired situation, on the north of Baliol and Trinity Colleges, having a terrace, shaded with a row of lofty elms, in front. It chiefly consists of two courts; the entrance to the first of which is by a handsome old gateway, with a tower over it; this court is formed by the hall and chapel on the north, the president's lodgings on the east; and the chambers of the fellows and students on the south and west sides. The chapel is neat and commodious. It is divided from the anti-chapel, by a new and elegant screen, over which is erected a handsome new organ. The altar is of the Corinthian order, and over the communion table is a beautiful piece of tapestry, from a painting of Titian, representing our Saviour and his two disciples at Emmaus. The eagle which supports the bible is a piece of curious workmanship, executed by Mr. Snetzler, of Oxford, and was the gift of Thomas Eskourt, Esq. late a gentleman commoner of this house. On the north side of the choir is a marble urn, containing the heart of Dr. Rawlinson, enclosed in a silver vessel, with this singular inscription: "*Ubi thesaurus, ibi*

cor." Choir-service is performed in this chapel every day, at 11 and 5.

The hall is fitted up in the modern taste with great elegance, being well proportioned, and handsomely wainscotted, with a beautiful arched roof, a screen of Portland stone, and a grand variegated marble chimney-piece, containing a picture of John the Baptist, by Guarini. It is likewise adorned with several other excellent pieces; at the upper end is a whole-length portrait of the founder, with Archbishop Laud on the right, and Archbishop Juxon on the left. On the north and south sides are those of Bishop Mew, Bishop Beveridge, Sir William Paddy, and other eminent men, who have either illustrated this society by their learning, or enriched it by their beneficence.

On the north side of the hall is the Common room, the ceiling of which is a good piece of stucco, by Mr. Roberts; and the whole room is handsomely adorned in general.

The second court, which is entered by a passage on the east side of the first, is the design of Inigo Jones, and built in the year 1635. The east and west sides exhibit each a beautiful Doric colonnade, the columns of which consist of a remarkable species of bluish stone, said to be dug at Fifield, in Berks. In the centre of each colonnade are two porticoes, charged with a profusion of embellishments. Over these, on each side, are two good statues in brass, cast by Francis Fanelli, a Florentine; that on the east of Charles I. and that on the west of his queen: their respective niches are ornamented with the Ionic and Corinthian orders; and the whole possesses an elegant and agreeable appearance. The upper stories of the south and east sides form the library: the first division of which consists of printed books; the second of manuscripts, chiefly given by archbishop Laud. This being furnished with cases of iron lattice work, which are disposed in a parallel direction with the sides, forms an ample and airy gallery. In this room the archbishop

above-mentioned entertained Charles I. and his court in a most magnificent manner. Among other curiosities is a drawing of king Charles I. which contains the book of Psalms written in the lines of the face and hair of the head. In an elegant gilt frame, at the north end of the inner library, is a fine figure of St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness, after Raphael, beautifully stained upon what, at first sight, appears to be a piece of high-polished marble; but which is in reality a composition equally compact and durable, called Scagliola. The east window of this library is adorned with the coats of arms of the founder, the company of merchant tailors, and of several benefactors to the college, in curious and well-painted glass.

The gardens, which are both extensive and beautiful by the late improvements, possess all those graces arising from a well-regulated variety, and a succession of beauties judiciously diversified and disposed.

This college was founded by Sir Thomas White, alderman and merchant-tailor of London, in the year 1557, for the maintenance of one president, and 50 fellows, three chaplains, three clerks, and six choristers, &c. Two of the fellowships are ordered to be supplied from Coventry, two from Bristol, two from Reading, and one from Tunbridge; the rest from merchant-tailors' school in London. The benefactors have been very numerous, and no less considerable. Sir William Paddy founded and endowed the present choir, that originally established by the founder having been dissolved, by unanimous consent of the society, in the year 1517, the revenues of the college being found insufficient for its maintenance. Archbishop Laud erected the second court, its south side excepted, which was built in the year 1595, with the stones of the Carmelite Friery in Gloucester Green; the company of merchant-tailors in London, amongst several other benefactions, contributing 200*l*. Archbishop Juxon,

gave 7000*l.*, to augment the fellowships ; Dr. Holmes, formerly president, with his lady, gave 15,000*l.* for improving the salaries of the officers, and other purposes. And Dr. Rawlinson, above-mentioned, granted the reversion of a large estate, in fee-farm rents.

This college was founded on the site of Bernard's College, erected in the year 1437, by Archbishop Chichely, the liberal founder of All Soul's College. The present old quadrangle, part of the east side excepted, is the original edifice of Chichely, no building being added at the new foundation by Sir T. White.

The present members are, one president, 50 fellows, two chaplains, an organist, five singing men, six choristers, and two sextons, the number of students of all sorts being about 80. Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester.

JESUS COLLEGE.—This college, which consists of two courts, is situated opposite to Exeter College. It has a handsome front, rebuilt in the year 1756.

In the first court is the hall, which has been much improved by the addition of a ceiling and other ornaments, executed in stucco by the late Mr. Roberts—in this room there is likewise a portrait of queen Elizabeth : the principal's lodgings, in which is shewn a valuable picture of Charles I. at full length, by Vandyke : and the chapel, which is handsomely fitted up and well proportioned. Of these the first was erected in the year 1617 ; the second soon after the year 1621 ; and the last was completed in the year 1686.

Three sides of the inner court were begun by Dr. Mansel, one of the principals, a little before the grand rebellion ; they are built in an uniform manner ; the hall above-mentioned forms the fourth side of this quadrangle. The library, which is on the west side, is a well-furnished room, and adorned, among other portraits, with a curious picture of Dr. Hugh Price, supposed to have been painted by

Hans Holbein, having been engraved as such by Vertue.

This college was founded, according to the purport of its charter, dated June 27th, 1571, by Queen Elizabeth, for one principal, eight fellows, and eight scholars. Nearly at the same time it also received an endowment of land, of about 160l. per annum, since lost, from Hugh Price, L. D. a native of Brecknock, and treasurer of the church of St. David's, who likewise erected a part of the first court.

The chief benefactors are, Sir Eubule Thelwall, formerly principal, who increased the number of fellows and scholars from eight to sixteen; Francis Mansell, D.D.; Sir Leoline Jenkins; King Charles I. besides many others.

In the bursary is shewn a sumptuous piece of plate, the gift of the late Sir Watkin Williams Wynne; also the statutes of the college, exquisitely written on vellum, by the Rev. Mr. Parry, of Shipton-upon-Stower, formerly fellow.

This college consists at present of one principal, 19 fellows, 18 scholars, with many exhibitioners and independent students; in all about 80 or 90. Visitor, the Earl of Pembroke.

WADHAM COLLEGE.—This college, which stands opposite to Trinity College, in the northern suburb, called Holiwell, consists chiefly of one large quadrangle, about 130 feet square.

At the south-east angle of this court is the Hall, to the east of which is the library; the former is a spacious and lofty Gothic room, and furnished with some valuable portraits. The portico leading to this building is decorated with the statues of King James I. and Nicholas and Dorothy Wadham, the founders. The library presents nothing remarkable in its decorations and furniture.

The Chapel, at the north-east angle of the court, is an extensive and venerable pile; and the antichapel, like those at Merton, New College, All Souls, and Magdalene, runs at right angles to the

choir, having a proportionable height, length, and breadth. The east window of this chapel, representing the Passion of our Saviour, is admirably painted by Van Ling, a Dutchman, in the year 1623. It was given by Sir John Strangeways, and is said to have cost 1,500*l*. The windows on the right side, appear to have been executed by the same hand, but those on the left are poor, and of a later age; but the most singular curiosity in this chapel is the painted cloth, at the lower end of the altar. The painting is on cloth, which being of an ash colour, serves for the medium; the lines and shades are done with a brown crayon, and the lights and heightening with a white one. These dry colours being pressed with hot irons, which produced an exudation from the cloth, are so incorporated into its texture and substance, that they are a proof against a brush, of even the harshest touch. The figures are finely drawn, and have a pleasing effect, but the colours are now much faded. It was executed by Isaac Fuller, who painted the Resurrection piece over the altar, at Magdalenie: the subject of the front is the Lord's Supper, on the north side Abraham and Melchisedeck; and on the south the Children of Israel gathering manna.

The cloister, with its superstructure, in the midst of which is a handsome common room, forms a sort of east front to the college, from whence is a beautiful prospect over the meadows to the distant hills.

This college was designed by Nicholas Wadham, Esq. of Merifield, in Somersetshire, and erected in pursuance of his will by Dorothy his widow, in the year 1611, for the maintenance of one warden, 15 fellows, 15 scholars, two chaplains, and two clerks. The statutes direct that the warden shall quit the college in case of marriage; that the fellows shall enjoy the benefit of the society no longer than 18 years, after their regency in arts; that the scholars from whom the fellows are chosen, shall be appointed three from Somersetshire, three from Essex, and the remainder from any part of Great Britain.

The buildings of this house have not received the least alteration from the time of the foundress; and as they now stand are the entire result of the first architect. From this circumstance they derive an uniformity and regularity, scarcely to be paralleled in any other college of this University.

The principal benefactors to this college are John Goodridge, A. M. who gave, in the year 1654, his whole estate at Walthamstow in Essex, for the endowment of several exhibitions, &c. and Dr. Hody, Greek professor, who founded four exhibitions for students in Hebrew, and for six others in Greek, of 10*l.* each. Dr. Philip Bisse, archdeacon of Taunson, gave about 2000 volumes to the library; in which is preserved his portrait, at full length, given by the foundress. Lord Wyndham lately bequeathed 2000*l.*; 1500*l.* of which are appointed for the increase of the warden's salary, and the residue for ornamenting the house; and Lisle, the late warden, bishop of Norwich, added two exhibitions.

This college consists of one warden, 15 fellows, 15 scholars, two chaplains, two clerks, and 16 exhibitioners, at 10*l.* per annum each; the whole number of members being about 100. Visitor, the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

PEMBROKE COLLEGE.—This college, which is situated opposite to the grand gate of Christ Church, consists of two small courts. To the right of the entrance are the Master's lodgings, which make a handsome appearance, and are large and convenient. The hall, which stands at the north-west angle of the first court is adorned with several pictures of the founder and benefactors.

The Chapel, which is modern, is a handsome building of the Ionic order, with a beautiful altar-piece, which is justly admired for its neatness; and the whole is elegantly finished and properly adorned. It was built by contribution; and consecrated in the year 1732, previous to which, their chapel was an aisle in the adjoining church of St. Aldate.

Westward of the chapel is the garden, in which is a pleasant common room, and an agreeable terrace walk, formed on the city wall.

This college was founded in the year 1620, by the joint benefaction of Thomas Tesdale, of Glympton, in Oxfordshire, and Richard Wightwick, S. T. B. rector or Ilsley, Berks, for one master, 10 fellows, and 10 scholars. Four of Mr. Tesdale's fellows to be chosen out of his relations, and the rest who have received their education at Abingdon free-school. Two of the fellows and two scholars, on Mr. Wightwick's benefaction to be of his kindred, and the rest from Abingdon School. The former gentleman gave 5000*l.* in money, and the latter 100*l.* per annum in land. The society has, however, been much enlarged by the addition of several fellowships, scholarships, and exhibitions. Charles I. granted the living of St. Aldate, in Oxford, together with a fellowship. Juliana Stafford, in the year 1628, founded two scholarships. Francis Rous, in the year 1657, three exhibitions. Dr. George Morley, bishop of Winton, founded five scholarships for the natives of Guernsey and Jersey; besides these Sir John Bennet, afterwards lord Ossulston, eight exhibitions. Queen Anne likewise annexed a prebend of Gloucester to the mastership; and not many years since Lady Holford added two exhibitions. Sir John Phillips, Bart. in the year 1745, founded one fellowship, and one scholarship, with an advowson annexed. Dr. Hall, master of this college, and bishop of Bristol, built the lodgings of the master, together with the gateway of the college, soon after the Restoration.

This college was originally Broadgate Hall, a flourishing house of learning, famous for the study of the civil law, and in which Camden received part of his education. It obtained the name of Pembroke College, from the memorable Earl of Pembroke, who was chancellor of the University when the college was founded, and whose interest was particu-

larly instrumental in its establishment. The society at present consists of one master, 14 fellows, 50 scholars and exhibitioners; the whole number of members being about 70. Visitor, the Chancellor of the University.

WORCESTER COLLEGE.—This college is situated at the extremity of the western suburbs, on an eminence, which descends to the river and meadows. Its court or area consists of three sides, which are to be completed in the modern taste. At present the eastern side only, together with the north wing, are finished. On the west it is proposed to form a garden, sloping to the water; so that a most agreeable prospect will be opened to the college. The library is a neat Ionic edifice, 100 feet in length, supported by a spacious cloister: and furnished with a fine collection of books, the gift of Dr. Clarke, formerly fellow of All Soul's College. Its greatest curiosity is Inigo Jones's Palladio, with his own manuscript notes in Italian.

On the entrance into the college on each side are the Chapel and Hall, both of which are fifty feet in length, and 29 in breadth. On the whole, if this house should be executed according to the plan proposed, it will be one of the most elegant structures in the University.

This college was founded in the year 1714, by the benefaction of Sir Thomas Cöokes, of Bently in Worcestershire. To his endowment have since been added two fellowships and two scholarships, by Dr. Fynney, and two exhibitioners for Charter House scholars by Lady Holford; the principal benefactors, however, have been Mrs. Eaton, daughter of Dr. Eaton, principal of Gloucester Hall, who founded six fellowships in the year 1735; and Dr. Clarke, fellow of All Soul's College, who gave six fellowships and threescholarships, in the year 1736; besides other considerable bequests.

This house was originally called Gloucester College, being a seminary for educating the novices of

Gloucester monastery, as it was likewise for those of other religious houses. It was founded in the year 1283, by John Gifford, baron of Brimsfield. When suppressed at the reformation, it was converted into a palace for the bishop of Oxford; but was soon afterwards erected into an academical hall, by Sir Thomas White, the founder of St. John's College; in which state it continued, till it at length received a charter of incorporation, and a small endowment from Sir Thomas Cookes.

The society at present consist of a provost, 21 fellows, 16 scholars, &c. The whole number being about 70. Visitor, the Chancellor of the University.

HERTFORD COLLEGE.—This college is situated opposite to the gate of the Schools, and consists of one court: the entire plan is, however, far from being complete, it being intended to be erected in the form of a quadrangle, each angle to consist of three staircases, and fifteen single apartments, and every apartment to contain an outward room, a bed-place, and a study; of these the south-east angle, and the chapel in the south, with the principal's lodgings in the east, are completed. The hall in the north, and the gateway, with the library over it, in the west, are remains of an ancient structure. This college having escheated to the crown, was dissolved in 1820.

This house was formerly called Hartford, or Hart Hall, founded by Walter Stapleton, bishop of Exeter, in the year 1312, and belonged to Exeter College; but was converted into a college by Dr. Richard Newton, a late learned and public-spirited principal, who also consigned an estate towards its endowment. This ancient hostel received its charter as a college, September 8, 1740.

As an inducement to complete this college, it may be called by the name of any other person who will complete the endowment of it or become the principal benefactor to it.

The college consists, at present, of a principal, two senior fellows, some junior fellows, or assistants,

four scholars, &c. Visitor, the Chancellor of the University.

The discipline kept up in the several Colleges is very exact. Every student must, at least, till he has taken his first degree, reside in some College or Hall. He must have a tutor, perform all exercises with punctuality, observe all statutes, and be obedient to the head of the House. He must never be seen abroad without his academical habit, and must not be out of college at a later hour than nine in the evening. Such students as are not upon the different foundations, are divided into four classes of Noblemen, Gentlemen Commoners, Commoners, and Servitors. The number of Academicians, of all classes, is now about 3000.

The first dresses of students are supposed to have been made in imitation of those worn by the Benedictine Monks. A *Master of Arts* wears a gown of Prince's stuff, and a hood of black silk lined with crimson; the gown is remarkable for the semicircular cut at the bottom of the sleeve. *Bachelor of Arts*, Prince's stuff gown looped up at the elbow, and terminating in a point; black hood lined with fur. *Noblemen*, black silk gown with full sleeves; a tippet like that worn by the proctors, attached to the shoulders. *Gentleman Commoner*, silk gown plaited at the sleeves. *Commoner*, gown of Prince's stuff, no sleeves, a black strip appended from each shoulder, reaches to the bottom of the dress, and towards the top is gathered into plaits. *Student of Civil Law*, plain silk gown, with lilac hood. *Scholar*, gown like the commoners, but without plaits at the shoulders. Square black caps are worn by all ranks; but those of Noblemen and of gentlemen commoners, are of velvet. A gold tassel also distinguishes the cap of nobility. The cap worn by the servitor has no tassel; but those of every other rank, are distinguished by black ones. The proctors wear the gown of a Master of Arts, with ermined hood, and velvet sleeves.

HALLS.

Of the numerous halls, hostels, or inns, which were the only academical houses originally possessed by the students of Oxford, only five subsist at present. These societies are neither endowed nor incorporated. They are subject to their respective principals, whose salary arises from the room-rent of the house. The principals are appointed by the Chancellor of the University, that of Edmund Hall excepted, who is nominated by Queen's College, under whose patronage Edmund Hall still remains.

The five Halls now extant, are:

St. ALBAN'S HALL.—This hall is situated contiguous to Merton College on the east, and appears to have been a house of learning in the reign of Edward I. It received its name from Robert de St. Alban, a citizen of Oxford, who in the reign of John conveyed this tenement to the abbey of Littlemore. The front was erected, in the year 1595, by Benedict Barnham, alderman of London. It has a small refectory but no chapel.

EDMUND HALL.—This hall, which is situated to the east of Queen's College, was first established about the reign of Edward III. and was consigned to Queen's College in the year 1557. It has a library, refectory, and chapel, which are neat and commodious.

St. MARY'S HALL is situated in Oriel Lane, to the south of St. Mary's Church, and was erected by King Edward II. It consists of an elegant little court, which is formed by the principal's lodgings on the north, the hall and chapel on the south, and on the east and west by the chambers of the students. Sir Thomas More, and Sandys the poet, studied in this house.

The buildings of this society received considerable improvements in the last century, the east side having been entirely rebuilt, by the contributions of several noblemen and gentlemen educated here; and the

south side has likewise been lately raised and finished by the benefactions of Dr. Nowell, the late principal, and other members of the society. The number of students is about sixty.

NEW INN HALL.—This hall stands at the west end of the city, near the church of St. Peter in the Bailey; but no part of the buildings now remain, except a house for the principal. Almost opposite to this hall stands part of the gateway of St. Mary's College, in which Erasmus resided for some time, and who has left an elegant Latin poem on the manner of his living here. It was founded in the year 1487, for novices of the Augustine order, but suppressed at the Reformation.

MAGDALENE HALL.—This hall adjoins to the west side of Magdalene College, to which it is appendant, the most considerable part of it being a Grammar School for the choristers of that college, and erected with it by the founder, William Wainfleet, for that purpose alone. To this structure other buildings being added, it grew by degrees into an academical hall, and has a well-furnished library, with a neat chapel and refectory. Here are several exhibitions, and this seminary boasts the education of Lord Clarendon, the celebrated historian. The number of students is generally about seventy.

The fire that occurred at Magdalene Hall on a Sunday morning early in January, 1820, broke out in the Common Room of this Hall. The alarm was given by the coachman and guard of the Gloucester mail, who had seen the smoke from Headington hill. By their violent knocking and ringing at the gate, they soon succeeded in awaking the inmates. The cry of fire, in a short time brought the engines to the spot; but, from the extreme severity of the frost, it was some time before a sufficient quantity of water could be procured to enable them to act. In consequence of this unfortunate delay, the flames gained a considerable height before they were subdued. The building in which the fire broke out is in an

inner court, and almost detached from the rest; it consisted of fifteen sets of rooms and the Common Room: all that is saved of these are the shattered remains of four rooms in the north-east corner. Every thing in the rooms on both sides of the staircase in which the fire originated was consumed, with the exception of a very few articles, in a lower room, opposite the Common Room. Most of the furniture, books, manuscripts, &c. in the rooms of the next staircase, were preserved from destruction. One gentleman, who slept opposite the Common Room, had a narrow escape. He was taken from his bed when the flames were bursting into his room. The principal, and indeed almost the only article belonging to this gentleman, rescued from the devouring element, was a rare and valuable set of the works of Aristotle, in folio.—The first thought of Mr. Clarke, after he had himself been placed in safety, was the preservation of his favourite philosopher; “For God’s sake,” he exclaimed, dragging the servant towards the burning room, “do save my Aristotle.” Dr. Macbride, the Principal, and Mr. James, the Vice Principal, were both in Devonshire, but have since returned.

The other public buildings more particularly belonging to the University are the following :

THE NEW, OR RADCLIVIAN LIBRARY, which is situated in a superb square, formed by St. Mary’s Church, the Schools, Brazen-nose and All Soul’s Colleges. This sumptuous building was erected at the expense of the gentleman whose name it bears, who left 40,000*l.* for this purpose; 150*l.* per annum for a librarian; 100*l.* per year to purchase books, and the same sum to keep the building in repair.

The basement, which is rustic, is 100 feet in diameter, composed of a double octagon, every square being distinguished by its projection, and a pediment forming a gateway. On this base is raised a cylindrical edifice, adorned with three-quarter columns of the Corinthian order, arranged in couplets, be-

tween which is an alternation of windows and niches, throughout the whole circumference. The entablature is highly finished with carving; over it is a balustrade, finished with vases; above which is a cupola 60 feet in height. Seven of the gateways above-mentioned are entrances into the portico or arcade, and enclose a spacious dome in the centre. Over each of the entrances is a dome of smaller dimensions, curiously wrought with a variety of Mosaic work. The eighth gateway is appropriated to a well executed flight of spiral steps, which leads into the library itself. This room, which is a complete pattern of elegance, rises into a capacious dome ornamented with fine compartments of stucco. The pavement is of two colours, and made of a peculiar species of stone, brought from Hartz Forest, in Germany. The room is enclosed by a circular series of arches, beautified with festoons, and supported by pilasters of the Ionic order. Behind these arches are formed two circular galleries, above and below, in which the books are arranged. The compartments of the ceiling in the upper gallery are finely stuccoed. Over the door, at the front entrance, is a statue of the founder, Dr. Radcliffe, by Rysbrack, which is most advantageously viewed from the point opposite to it in the last-mentioned gallery. Over the entrance of one of the galleries is a good bust of Gibbs, the architect.

The first stone of this magnificent edifice was laid the 17th of May, in the year 1737; and the library opened on the 13th of April, 1749, with great solemnity. The librarian, according to the founder's appointment, is nominated by the great officers of state.

In this library are a couple of superb Roman candlesticks, of incomparable workmanship, which were found in the ruins of the Emperor Adrian's palace at Tivoli, in the Campania Romana; they were given to the University by Sir Roger Newdigate, Bart.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS form a magnificent qua-

drangle; the principal front is about 175 feet in length; in the centre of which is a noble tower, whose highest apartments are appointed for astronomical observations, and other philosophical experiments. Three sides of the upper story of the quadrangle are one entire room, called the Picture Gallery. This is chiefly furnished with portraits of founders and benefactors, and of other eminent men; as also with cabinets of medals, and cases of books. It was wainscotted by the munificence of Dr. Butler, the late president of Magdalene College, and the late Duke of Beaufort. About the middle stands a noble statue in brass of Philip, Earl of Pembroke, designed by Rubens, and cast by Hubert le Soeur, a Frenchman, the same who executed the equestrian statue of Charles I. at Charing Cross. This room is in reality a part or continuation of the Bodleian Library, and under it are the schools of the several sciences; in a room to the north of which are placed the Arundelian marbles, given to the University by Henry, Duke of Norfolk, grandson to Lord Arundel, at the instance of Mr. Evelyn, when Arundel House in the Strand was taken down; and in another, the collection of statues, &c. which was presented to the University, by the late countess of Pomfret. The first stone of the Schools, with the exception of the divinity school, was laid March 30, 1613; and the buildings were carried on at the combined expense of many benefactors.

THE BODLEIAN, OR PUBLIC LIBRARY, is a part or member of the last-mentioned edifice. It consists of three spacious and lofty rooms, disposed in the form of a Roman H.—The middle room was erected by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, over the Divinity School, about the year 1440, and by him furnished with books, which have been since lost. The gallery on the West was raised at the expense of the University, under the chancellorship of Archbishop Laud, together with the Convocation House beneath. The vestibule or first gallery, with the proscholium

under it, was built by Sir Thomas Bodley, who furnished the whole with a collection of books, made with prodigious care and expense. He likewise assigned an estate for the maintenance of a librarian, &c. and the institution of a public fund for the library; adding a body of statutes, for the regulation of this establishment, which were afterwards confirmed by convocation. By these services he justly obtained the name of the founder of the library. He died the 8th of January, 1612. The original stock has been greatly enriched by the accession of many valuable collections of manuscripts, particularly Greek and Oriental; besides many additions of choice and useful books, from various benefactors, the principal of whom are, the Earl of Pembroke, Archbishop Laud, Sir Thomas Roe, Sir Kenelm Digby, General Fairfax, Dr. Marshall, Dr. Barlow, Dr. Rawlinson, and Mr. St. Amand. This library is said to contain the greatest number of books of any in Europe (except that of the Vatican,) though previous to the year 1300, the library of the University consisted only of a few tracts, which were kept in the choir of St. Mary's Church.

This Library and the Picture Gallery may be seen in the summer from eight to two o'clock, and in the afternoon from three to five. In the winter only till three in the afternoon.

THE DIVINITY SCHOOL stands under the same roof, it was begun at the expense of the University, in the year 1427, and afterwards completed, with its superb structure, by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester. Its ceiling is a most finished piece of Gothic masonry, both in design and execution; and on the whole, it is probably the most complete Gothic room in this kingdom. At the end of it is the Convocation House, which is a spacious apartment, commodiously furnished and handsomely decorated. It was built with its superstructure, in the year 1639.

THE THEATRE.—The front of this building stands opposite to the Divinity School, and is adorned with Corinthian pillars, and statues with other decorations

The roof is flat, and not being supported either by columns or arch-work, rests on the side walls, which are at the distance of 80 feet one way, and 70 feet the other. This roof is covered with allegorical pictures, done by Streater, serjeant-painter to Charles II. The following description of which is given in Dr. Plott's *Natural History of Oxfordshire*:

“In imitation of the Theatres of the ancient *Greeks* and *Romans*, which were too large to be covered with lead or tile, so this, by the painting of the flat roof within, is represented open; and as they stretched a cordage from pilaster to pilaster, upon which they strained a covering of cloth, to protect the people from the injuries of the weather, so here is a cord moulding gilded, that reaches across the house, both in length and breadth, which supporteth a great reddish drapery, supposed to have covered the roof, but now furled up by the *Genii* round about the house, towards the wall, which discovereth the open air, and maketh way for the descent of the *Arts* and *Sciences*, that are congregated in a circle of clouds, to whose assembly *Truth* descends, as being solicited and implored by them all.

“For joy of this festival some other *Genii* sport about the clouds, with their festoons of flowers and laurels, and prepare their garlands of laurels and roses, viz. *Honour* and *Pleasure*, for the great lovers and students of those arts: and that this assembly might be perfectly happy, their great enemies and disturbers, *Envy*, *Rapine*, and *Brutality*, are by the *Genii* of their opposite virtues, viz. *Prudence*, *Fortitude*, and *Eloquence*, driven from the society, and thrown down headlong from the clouds: the report of the assembly of the one, and the expulsion of the other, being proclaimed through the open and serene air, by some other of the *Genii*, who blowing their antick trumpets, divide themselves into the several quarters of the world. Thus far in general.

“More particularly, the circle of figures consists,

first of *Theology*, with her Book of Seven Seals, imploring the assistance of *Truth* for the unfolding of it.

“On her left hand is the *Mosaical Law*, veiled, with the tables of stone, to which she points with her iron rod.

“On her right hand is the *Gospel*, with the cross in one hand, and a chalice in the other.

“In the same division, over the *Mosaical Law*, is *History*, holding up her pen as dedicating it to *Truth*, and an attending *Genius*, with several fragments of old Writing, from which she collects her history into her books.

“On the other side, near the *Gospel*, is *Divine Poesy*, with her harp of David’s fashion.

“In the triangle on the right hand of the *Gospel*, is also *Logick*, in a posture of arguing; and on the left hand of the *Mosaical Law* is *Musick*, with her antick lyre, having a pen in her hand, and a paper of Music Notes on her knee, with a *Genius* on her right hand, (a little within the partition of *Theology*) playing on a flute, being the emblem of ancient musick.

“On the left (but within the partition of *Physick*) *Dramatick Poesy*, with a vizard, representing *Comedy*, a bloody dagger for *Tragedy*, and the reed pipe for *Pastoral*.

“In the square, on the right side of the circle, is *Law*, with her ruling Sceptre, accompanied with Records, Patents, and Evidences on the one side, and on the other with *Rhetorick*: by these is an attending *Genius*, with the Scales of *Justice*, and a figure with a palm-branch, the emblem of reward for virtuous actions; and the *Roman Fasces*, the marks of Power and Punishment.

“*Printing*, with a Case of Letters in one hand, and a Form ready set in the other, and by her several Sheets hanging to dry.

“On the left side the circle, opposite to *Theology*, in three squares, are the *Mathematical Sciences*, depending on *Demonstration*, as the other on *Faith*; in the first of which is *Astronomy*, with the Celestial Globe,

Geography, with the Terrestrial, together with three attending *Genii* having *Arithmetick* in the square on one hand; with a paper of figures; *Optics* with the perspective glass; *Geometry*, with a pair of compasses in her left hand; and a table, with geometrical figures in it, in her right hand. And in the square on the other hand, *Architecture* embracing the capital of a column, with compasses, and the norma or square lying by her, and a workman holding another square in one hand, and a plumb-line in the other.

"In the midst of thesesquares and triangles (as descending from above) is the figure of *Truth*, sitting as on a cloud, in one hand holding a palm-branch (the emblem of victory,) in the other the sun, whose brightness enlightens the whole circle of figures, and is so bright that it seems to hide the face of herself to the spectators below.

"Over the entrance of the front of the Theatre are three figures tumbling down; first *Envy*, with her snaky hairs, squint eyes, hag's breast, pale venomous complexion, strong but ugly limbs, and rivelled skin, frightened from above by the sight of the shield of *Pallas*, with the *Gorgon's* head in it, against which she opposes her snaky tresses; but her fall is so precipitous she has no command of her arms.

"Then *Rapine*, with her fiery eyes, grinning teeth, sharp twangs, her hands imbrued in blood, holding a bloody dagger in one hand, in the other a burning flambeau, with these instruments threatening the destruction of Learning, and all its habitations: but she is overcome, and prevented by a *Herculean Genius*, or power.

"Next that is represented brutish, scoffing *Ignorance*, endeavouring to vilify and condemn what she understands not, which is charmed by a *Mercurial Genius*, with his *Caduceus*."

The colours, however, as well as the canvas of this painting, having been greatly injured by time, the work was cleaned and repaired in the year 1762, by Mr. Kettle, an ingenious portrait painter; at which

time the whole of the interior of this edifice was also decorated with new gilding, painting, and other ornaments, at the expense of 1000*l*; so that it is now universally allowed to be one of the most superb and splendid rooms in Europe. Besides the ceiling, the room is furnished with three full-length portraits of Archbishop Sheldon, the Duke of Ormond, and Sir Christopher Wren. This beautiful structure, which is somewhat in the form of a Roman D, was completed from a design of Sir Christopher Wren, in the year 1669, at the expense of Archbishop Sheldon, who having expended 15,000*l*. in the building it, endowed it with 2000*l*. to purchase lands for its perpetual repair.—In the Theatre are celebrated the public acts, and the annual commemoration of benefactors to the University, on the 2nd of July, instituted by the late Lord Crew, bishop of Durham, with some other solemnities.

THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM stands westward of the Theatre, and is so called from its founder, Elias Ashmole, Windsor Herald in the reign of Charles II. This munificent patron of learning, in the year 1677, made an offer to bestow upon the University all the rarities he had purchased from the two Tradescants, successively physic gardeners at Lambeth, together with his own collection of coins, manuscripts, &c. on condition that they should build a fabric for their reception. The building was accordingly erected, and finished, in the year 1682, under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren. Its front towards the street is about 60 feet in length; the eastern portico is remarkably well finished in the Corinthian order, adorned with a variety of characteristic embellishments, and its architecture is deservedly reckoned equal to any in the University; though, like many others, it is so much crowded by the neighbouring buildings, that the spectator cannot command a proper view of it. In pursuance of his promise, Ashmole presented to the University a large and valuable collection of natural curiosities,

together with his coins and manuscripts; at his death he likewise bequeathed three gold chains, one of philegrain work, consisting of 60 links, weighing twenty-two ounces, with a medal of the Duke of Brandenburg; the other a collar of SS. with a medal of the late king of Denmark; and the third a chain of equal weight and value, with a medal of the Emperor Joseph; all which he had received as honorary presents on occasion of his book, concerning the order of the garter. The museum, since its first foundation, has been greatly enriched, by several ample and valuable benefactions. The chief natural curiosities are a large collection of bodies, horns, bones, &c. of animals, preserved dry or in spirits; numerous specimens of minerals and metals; shells, especially those of Dr. Martin Lister, mentioned in his *History of the Animals of England*, together with his ores, fossils, &c. many of which are described in the *Philosophical Transactions*, or in the pieces published by that ingenious naturalist. It contains also a small, but chosen collection of exotic plants, sent from the East Indies, by James Pound, M. B. But it has chiefly been indebted to the care and munificence of its two first keepers, Dr. Robert Plot and Mr. Edward Lhywd; the former of which gave all the natural bodies mentioned in his *Histories of the Counties of Stafford and Oxon*: and the latter, the large collections he made in his travels through the greatest part of England, Wales, and Ireland. To these valuable treasures a great addition was made by the Rev. William Borlase, who presented to the University all the specimens of crystals, mundics, coppers, tins, &c. described in his *Natural History of Cornwall*; which present he also accompanied with his manuscript copy of the history, and the original drawings. Amongst the curiosities of nature must be reckoned the large magnet, given to the museum by the Right Honourable the Countess of Westmorland, the lady of a former chancellor. It is of an oval shape, its longer

diameter being 18 inches, its shorter 12, and supports a weight of 145lb. it is inclosed in an elegant case of mahogany, made at his lordship's expense; and may justly be deemed one of the greatest ornaments as well as rarities of this place. This repository likewise contains a good collection of antiquities, such as urns, statues, sacrificial vessels and utensils; it being possessed of most of those described in the *Britannia*, by Bishop Gibson. Here are also many Grecian, Roman, and Saxon coins, the gifts of the founder, and Thomas Braithwaite, Esq. Amongst the works of art, a model of a ship, given by Dr. Clark, and a picture representing our Saviour going to his Crucifixion, made of feathers, deserve particular notice; also a very ancient piece of St. Cuthbert, made by order of King Alfred, and worn, as it is supposed, by that monarch. There are also some good paintings: a dead Christ, the work of Annibal Carracci; several portraits of the Tradescant family, particularly Sir John, the grandfather, drawn after his death; Thomas, Earl of Arundel, and the Duke of Norfolk, his son, by Vandyke; likewise the founder of the museum, in a carved frame of elegant workmanship, and an extraordinary representation of Christ's descent into Hell, by Brugell. The last present to this collection was given by Mr. Reinhold Forster, who went the first voyage round the world, with Captain Cook, consisting of a great variety of the manufactures, habits, warlike instruments, and an idol, which he brought from the island of Otaheite, and New Zealand.

Besides the room in which the curiosities are deposited, there are three small libraries; the first called by the name of Ashmole's Study, containing his printed books and manuscripts, chiefly relating to matters of heraldry and antiquity: in which also are the manuscripts of Sir William Dugdale, author of the *Monasticon*, &c. The second is that of Dr. Lister, consisting of printed books in physic, and the best editions of the classics, in which are also

preserved the copper plates, belonging to the History of Shells, published by that author. The last is that of Anthony Wood, containing the valuable manuscript collections of that learned and laborious antiquarian. In the room on the first floor, lectures are read in experimental philosophy, under which is an elaboratory for courses of chemistry and anatomy. The care and direction of the Museum is vested in six visitors, viz. the Vice Chancellor, the Dean of Christ Church, the Principals of Brazen-nose, the King's Professor of Physic, and the two Proctors for the time being. These have the nomination of the head keeper, and meet annually on Trinity Monday to inspect the state of the collection, and to pass the accounts.

THE CLARENDON PRINTING-HOUSE, which is almost contiguous to the Theatre, is a magnificent structure, consisting of two stories, and being 115 feet in length. The street front has a noble Doric portico, whose columns equal the height of the first story; the back front is adorned with three quarter columns of the same dimensions, and a statue of the Earl of Clarendon. On the top of the building are statues of the Nine Muses. At the entrance from the schools, on the right hand, are two rooms, where bibles and books of common prayer are printed; over which are large and elegant apartments. The left side consists of rooms for the University Press; together with one well-executed apartment (adorned with an excellent portrait of queen Anne, by Kneller) appointed for the meetings of the heads of houses and delegates. This edifice was built in the year 1171, by the profits arising from the sale of Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, the copy of which had been presented to the University, by his son.

The city of Oxford is situated 54 miles from London, and contains, according to the late returns, 1992 houses, inhabited by 12,934 persons, and is magnificently lighted with gas lamps.

By way of recapitulating the varieties of Oxford,

it may be necessary to observe, that about six days, appropriated to a walk on each day, are required to visit the different parts of Oxford and its environs. The First Day's walk will suffice to visit the colleges of Lincoln, Jesus, Exeter, Brazen-nose, and All Souls. Proceeding from Carfax along High-street, and turning up the first opening on the left hand, we perceive the church of All Saints. Lincoln College has lately had its attractive front this way laid open to the street. This is reckoned among the greatest modern improvements. Retracing our steps through both courts, the front of Jesus College stretches in a long line on the western side of the street, contributing, with the opposite College of Exeter and the Chapel of Trinity in the distance, to form a very pleasing perspective. From the gate of Jesus the best exterior view of Exeter college is obtained, extending to the length of 220 feet, lighted by ranges of uniform windows. The hall is a fine embattled structure, on the southern side of the quadrangle. Coming out and turning round the south-west angle, we proceed along Brazen-nose-lane into Radcliffe-square. Of the view presented here, Lord Orford remarks "such a vision of large edifices, unbroken by private houses, suggest such ideas as the mind is apt to entertain of ancient cities which exist no longer." On the north side of this magnificent square are the public schools, and on the west, the beautiful College of All Souls; the southern side is formed by St. Mary's, the pride of Oxford churches, and the western front is bounded by the venerable front of Brazen-nose. In the centre of the square Dr. Radcliffe's library rears its classic dome. Opposite, as we repress the gate of Brazen-nose, the last object of the first day's walk, is the college of All Souls. Speaking of the grand quadrangle here, Lord Orford allows that its architect has produced a picturesque grandeur, not devoid of sublimity. It is the eastern side of the court whence arise those sister towers, that are justly the pride of

Oxford. From what point of vicinagesoever Oxford is contemplated, these spiry structures enrich the prospect, but to the stranger who wishes to enjoy at once a near and picturesque view of them, that which presents itself from a gateway leading from New College-lane to St. Peter's in the East, is particularly recommended.

The Second Day's walk may be directed to the Colleges of Worcester, St. John's, Baliol, Trinity, Wadham, and Magdalene.

Proceeding down to the corn-market, we leave on the right the venerable tower of St. Michael's, and from George-lane a little beyond, turn up Worcester-lane that soon brings us to Worcester College, the principal buildings of which are of recent date. At present, only the eastern and northern sides are finished, the southern being still formed by part of the old buildings of Gloucester Hall. Gardens hang on a charming slope towards the Isis. Leaving Worcester College and skirting along the northern side of Gloucester-green, a narrow lane leads to the charmingly retired street of St. Giles, on the eastern side of which stands St. John's College. The front of Baliol College, the next object, occupies a considerable portion of the northern side of Canditch. Both extremities of the front are modern. Immediately adjoining, on the west of Baliol, is Trinity College, divided from the street by a neat iron pallsade, and having an area ornamentally disposed into a grass plot and shrubberies. Leaving Trinity by the front avenue, and proceeding eastward, we pass Kettel Hall. Beyond, on the right, are the Ashmolean Museum, the Theatre, and the Clarendon Printing-office; opposite to the latter, a street diverging to the north, leads to Wadham College, the front of which, a little retiring from the street, ranges along the eastern side of the way. The front is of a simple but very pleasing character.

Passing along Holywell and down the Long walk to the south-eastern extremity of High-street, we

come to Magdalene College, one of the most extensive and most opulent foundations in the University; it is entered from the city by a modern gateway of the Doric order. On the east a noble gateway, tower, and the venerable western front of the chapel, present themselves; and on the south, a low embattled range of building is occupied as chambers. The pleasure grounds belonging to Magdalene College constitute one of its most agreeable appendages.

The Third Day's walk is laid out to visit Hertford, Oriel, University, Queen's, and New College. We first direct our steps along High-street, and turn to the left just beyond St. Mary's church, and by walking in a northerly direction arrives at Hertford College. Returning into High-street, and proceeding down a lane on the opposite side of the way, at the bottom of this lane stands Oriel College, the chief front of which looking to the west, is a regular and very pleasing elevation, lighted by ancient windows, and surmounted by a double battlement. Its principal feature is a handsome square tower, rising over the gateway, which is ornamented by a neat bay or Oriel window.

Regaining the High-street and proceeding in an easterly direction along its southern side, we come to University College. It is a regular elevation of three stories, embattled in the ogee manner, and lighted by uniform ranges of windows. Immediately on recrossing the front of University College, an excellent view is obtained of Queen's College, which, arrayed in all the splendor of classic architecture, expands its front to the extent of 220 feet on the northern side of High street. Departing from Queen's College through Edmund Hall lane, after turning to the left into Queen's College lane, a picturesque view of the towers and pinnacles of All Souls is soon obtained. An abrupt turning to the right leads through an old gateway with a pointed arch, into New College lane, the eastern extremity of which is closed by New College, but which, viewed from

this point, makes an appearance but little indicative of its actual extent and grandeur.

In the Fourth Day's walk the four remaining colleges of Pembroke, Merton, Corpus Christi, and Christ Church, may be viewed. About a hundred yards south of Carfax, a short and very retired street verging westward from St. Aldate's, leads to Pembroke College. The exterior of this, though quite plain, has a peculiarly neat and clean appearance; a plain gateway opening beneath a low tower, leads into the quadrangle, which is of a very limited extent, but surrounded by good and uniform buildings.

From Bear-lane, proceeding to King's-street, on the southern side of the latter, we perceive Merton College, the front of which is ennobled by the southern face of the Chapel, one of the most august edifices within the limits of the University. This chapel is also the parochial church of St. John the Baptist. The best station for viewing it is at the foot of Magpie-lane, when we have immediately in front the northern end of the transept, enriched with pinnacles, niches, and displaying a window of more than ordinary magnitude.

Immediately adjoining, on the west to Merton Grove, stands Corpus Christi College, which also viewed from the south-western corner of Magpie-lane, possesses considerable beauty. Towards King-street it presents a regular embattled elevation of three stories, and a square embattled tower, &c. Turning towards the west, on leaving Corpus Christi College, the majestic eastern portal, the most frequented entrance to the College of Christ Church presents itself. This is one of the most splendid foundations of the kind in Europe, the present buildings of which were erected between the years 1773 and 1783, after a plan furnished by the late Mr. Wyatt. Adverting to the Halls, having finished the tour of the Collegés, we find adjoining, on the east of Merton College, is St. Alban Hall. On the western side of Magdalene College is St. Mary Magdalene Hall, almost hidden by a row of majestic elms.

Opposite to the eastern side of Queen's College, stands St. Edmund's Hall, having an arched gateway and windows of ancient form. The hoary tower and mouldering walls of the ancient church of St. Peter in the East, partly concealed by the dark foliage of a spreading yew tree, rise in venerable dignity and bound the prospect in front. North of Oriel College stands St. Mary's Hall, another academical establishment. The buildings are disposed in the usual quadrangular form. New Inn Hall was established in a lane that derived its name from the establishment, though formerly this lane was called "The Seven Deadly Sins." This Hall has for some years been completely disused. One of the late principals was the celebrated Blackstone.

The Fifth Day's walk may be to the Public Schools, within the limits of which is comprehended the Bodleian, or University Library, the front of which stretches along the western side of Cat-street, opposite to Hertford College, Radcliffe Library, Clarendon Printing-house, the Ashmolean Museum, the Physic Garden, which besides the more immediate environs of Oxford, present various objects of curiosity and interest to engage an additional day. From an eminence near *Ferry Hincksey*, a village one mile west of the city, Oxford is seen to great advantage, rising like the queen of the vale from the bosom of a thick grove. Binsey, Godstowe, Witham, and Iffley, are still in some degree famous, in consequence of circumstances connected with their history.

A Drive formed round Nuneham Park, five miles from Oxford, affords many fine views; by the side of one part of it may be seen the celebrated conduit from Quatrevoies in Oxford.

Journey from Oxford to Caversham, through Henley.

On leaving Oxford, and proceeding in a southerly direction, at the distance of about two miles from the city, and a little to the right of our road, is the village of IFFLEY, which is situated on the banks of the Thames. Here is a very ancient church of Nor-

man architecture, the west door of which is richly ornamented, as is also the south, which is blocked up by a porch, and within the church are several fine circular arches.

Near to Iffley is the island of OSENEY, formed by the river Isis, where a priory for black canons was founded by Robert de Oilge, at the instigation of Editha his wife, in the reign of Henry I. It was afterwards erected into an abbey; and in the year 1542, it was converted into a cathedral by Henry VIII. with a dean and six prebendaries, who were to form a chapter for the Bishop of Oxford, whose palace was at Gloucester Hall. In about four years the see was removed to Christ Church by the king, and the abbot, who was bishop of Oseney, was likewise made bishop of Oxford. Part of the stately walls of this abbey are still to be seen converted into the out-houses of a water-mill standing on its site.

About one mile to the east of Iffley, on the left of our road, is the village of COWLEY, where was formerly a preceptory belonging to the Templars.

At the distance of one mile and a half from Cowley, we pass through the village of SANDFORD, situated 51 miles from London.

About two miles to the southward of Sandford, is the pleasant village of NUNEHAM COURTNEY, consisting of one street, or rather two rows of houses, having a garden between and in front of each, a little distance from the road, and a row of trees in front: the whole was erected in the year 1764, and contains 55 houses.

Near this village is the elegant seat of the Earl of Harcourt, who is lord of this manor, which at the general survey belonged to Richard de Curcy; afterwards to the family of Riparys, or Redvers. Mary, youngest daughter of William de Redvers, Earl of Devon (who as well as his uncle William, was surnamed de Vernon), married Robert de Courtney, baron of Oakhampton, in the year 1214. It is probable that by this marriage the manor of Nuneham passed into the family of Courtney, and thence as-

sumed the name of Nuneham Courtney; and after being in the possession of several families, became the property of the Earl of Wemys, from whom it was purchased in the year 1710, by Simon, first Earl of Harcourt, lord high chancellor of England.

The present edifice was built by the late earl, but has since been much altered and enlarged (by the addition of a court of offices, &c.) according to the plans of Mr. Brown. It stands in a park of six miles and a half in circumference, well wooded, and containing near 1200 acres, in which, "are scenes," says Mr. Walpole, "worthy of the bold pencil of Rubens, or to be subjects for the tranquil sunshines of Claude Lorrain." The elegant mansion of Nuneham Courtney, is situated on the slope of a hill, and the front placed towards the ascent. From this circumstance of situation all striking beauty of approach is forbidden; but groupes of spreading elms are united to the building by side skreens of shrubbery, and impart a powerful effect of contrast to the extensive views commanded by the back front of the edifice. The front is a handsome stone elevation, with projecting wings, joined to the body of the structure by inflected corridors. The vestibule is small, but ornamented by some good casts of statues. The park contains nearly twelve hundred acres. The entrance to the house is through a vestibule, which is ornamented with Doric columns, and casts of antique statues, from whence is an ascent, by an oval geometrical staircase, to the Saloon, which is 30 feet by 16, and $18\frac{1}{2}$ in height: it is hung with blue damask. The Anti-room is 24 feet by 15, and the same height with the saloon. The Library is 32 feet 4 inches, by 14 feet 4 inches high. The Eating-room is 33 feet by 24, and 18 and a half high. The octagon Drawing-room is 30 feet by 24, and the same height with the last-mentioned room. The great Drawing-room is 49 feet by 24, and the same height with the former. The ceiling of this room was designed by Stuart, and the chimney-piece by Paul Sandby; it is hung with crimson damask. The

State Bed-chamber, which is hung with crimson velvet, is 32 feet 4 inches, by 20 feet 6 inches. The whole of these rooms, together with the dressing-rooms, are most elegantly furnished, and adorned with a superb collection of portraits and paintings by the most eminent masters.

The Flower Garden contains only about an acre and a quarter ; but, from the irregularity of its form, the inequality of the ground, and the disposition of the trees, it appears of considerable extent. The boundary is concealed by a deep plantation of shrubs, which unites with the surrounding forest-trees that stand in the park. The garden is laid out in patches of flowers, and clumps of shrubs, of unequal dimensions and various shapes, and a gravel walk leads round it to different buildings and busts, on all of which are inscriptions. In a wild and retired part of the walk (with a high shrubbery on either side of it), which leads through detached trees to the grotto, are busts of Cato of Utica, and of Jean Jacques Rousseau, with the following inscriptions :

CATO.

“ A ce nom saint et auguste, tout ami de la vertu
Doit mettre le front dans la poussiere, et honorer
En silence la memoire du plus grand des hommes.”

J. J. Rousseau.

ROUSSEAU.

“ Say is thy honest Heart to Virtue warm?
Can genius animate thy feeling breast?
Approach, behold this venerable form,
’Tis Rousseau ; let thy bosom speak the rest.”

Bk. Boothby, Esq.

The Grotto is composed of rough stones, intermixed with spars and petrifications, to imitate a natural cavern, and the front partially concealed by ivy, and a variety of rock plants. In one corner of the grotto, on a piece of white marble of an irregular form, are inscribed some verses from the *Comus* of Milton.

The Temple of Flora. 'The design of this building is taken from a Doric portico at Athens. In the centre of the back wall is a medallion of Flora, from the antique in white marble; also busts of Faunus, Pan, Venus, and Apollo, with suitable inscriptions.

The Bower is a square building 12 feet by 10, the ceiling is coved; and the whole painted green; the front is covered with a treillage of the same colour, against which are planted roses, woodbines, jessamines, and several kinds of creepers, and appears like three arches cut through the shrubbery; within is a cast of Cupid and Psyche, from the antique, and on a tablet, above the centre arch, are inscribed the following verses:

"Fair Quiet, have I found thee here,
With Innocence, thy sister dear?
Mistaken long, I sought thee then
In busy companies of men;
Your sacred plants, at length I know,
Will only in retirement grow.
Society is all but rude
'To this delicious solitude,
Where all the flowers and trees do close
To weave the garland of repose."

And. Marvell.

BUST OF PRIOR.

"See, friend, in some few fleeting hours,
See yonder what a change is made;
Ah me! the blooming pride of May
And that of beauty are but one;
At morn both flourish bright and gay,
Both fade at evening pale and gone."

On an altar, encircled with cypresses, which stands within a recess in the shrubbery that surrounds the garden, is placed *the Urn*. 'The bank that rises behind is planted with flowers, and a weeping willow; large Weymouth pines, and other evergreens, form the back-ground. The following inscription is on the altar:

“ Sacred to the memory of FRANCES POOLE,
Viscountess Palmerston.

Here shall our ling’ring footsteps oft be found,
This is her shrine, and consecrates the ground.
Here living sweets around her altar rise,
And breathe perpetual incense to the skies.

Here, too, the thoughtless, and the young may
tread,

Who shun the drearier mansions of the dead.
May here be taught what worth the world has known,
Her wit, her sense, her virtues, were her own ;
To her peculiar—and for ever lost
To those who knew, and therefore lov’d her most.

Oh ! if kind pity steal on Virtue’s eye,
Check not the tear, nor stop the useful sigh ;
From soft humanity’s ingenuous flame,
A wish may rise to emulate her fame,
And some faint image of her worth restore
When those who now lament her, are no more.

George Simon Harcourt and the Honourable Elizabeth Vernon, Viscount and Viscountess Newnham, erected this urn in the year 1771.”

1. W. Whitehead, Esq. poet laureat, wrote the verses.

The Conservatory is 50 feet by 16, and is planted with bergamot, cedrati, limoncelli, and orange-trees of various kinds and sizes. In summer the front, sides, and roof of the building are entirely removed, and the trees appear to stand in the natural ground ; the back wall is covered with a treillage, against which are planted lemon, citron, and pomegranate-trees, intermixed with all the different sorts of jessamines.

The statue of Hebe terminates the principal glade, and fronts the temple of Flora ; it is backed by a large clump of shrubs, which forms a collection of all such evergreens as flourish in the open air. On the pedestal of the statue are the following verses.

“ Hebe, from thy cup divine,
Shed, O shed ! nectarious dews.
Here o’er Nature’s living shrine,
The immortal drops diffuse ;

Here while every bloom's display'd,
Shining fair in vernal pride,
Catch the colours ere they fade
And check the green blood's ebbing tide,
Till youth eternal like thine own prevail,
Safe from the night's damp wing or day's insidious
gale."

W. Whitehead, Esq.

The church is a beautiful building of the Ionic order, in the style of an antique temple; it was erected in the year 1764, at the sole expense of Simon Earl of Harcourt, who gave the original design, which afterwards received a small alteration from Mr. Stuart. The principal portico, which consists of six columns, supporting a plain pediment, has no communication with the church, but serves for a seat in the garden; the public entrance is on the opposite side, and that to the family closet through a semicircular portico at the west end. The inside, which is extremely neat, was furnished and decorated by the present earl. The altar-piece, which was designed and executed by Mr. Mason, represents the parable of the good Samaritan.—The piece of tapestry at the west end is a representation of the twelve tribes of Israel at the passover.

About three miles from Nuneham-Courtney is DORCHESTER, a place of great antiquity, and formerly a market-town. It is situated on the banks of the Thame, over which river is a handsome bridge of stone, completed in 1815, near its confluence with the Isis. It was anciently a Roman station (supposed to be the *Civitas Dorcinia* of the Romans), and afterwards the see of a bishop, founded by Birinus, the apostle of the West Saxons, in the year 636, after he had baptised their king Cinigils. This bishopric continued till the Norman Conquest, when it was removed by Bishop Remigius to Lincoln.

Besides the cathedral, there were formerly three parish churches, and an abbey of Augustine canons, founded by Birinus, in the year 635. The present

and only church, anciently attached to the abbey, is a large and venerable structure, with a low tower: two of the windows have some curious paintings on glass, the stone medallions of one represent the genealogy of the line of Jesse. The founder's monument stands on the south side of the altar; and the church is ornamented with a very antique leaden font, on which are 12 very curious figures. Since the removal of the see this town has gradually gone to decay; and at present contains only 150 houses, and 754 inhabitants. It has an annual fair on Easter Tuesday, and is situated 52 miles from London. A little to the south of Dorchester, at a place called Dike Hills, the remains of an ancient Roman fortification are still visible.

Dorchester Bridge was opened for carriages in July, 1815, which being the signal for removing the old one, scarcely any part of this remained in the December following.

Proceeding in a south-easterly direction, at the distance of about two miles and a half from Dorchester, we pass through the village of SHILLINGFORD, at which place is a bridge across the Thames into Berkshire; one mile beyond which is the village of BENSINGTON, once a royal town, taken from the Britons by Ceaulin, king of the West Saxons, in the year 572; it was afterwards united to the kingdom of Mercia, by Offa, who had a palace at EWELM, about a mile to the east, which Camden speaks of, as decaying with age. It belonged to the Chaucers, from whom by marriage it came to the De la Poles. Here was an hospital founded by William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, in the reign of Henry VI. whose duchess lies buried in the church. This Hospital is called *God's House*, and still exists: the mastership of which is given to the regius profesor of Divinity at Oxford. This township, which is situated 46 miles from London, contains 193 houses, and 811 inhabitants.

The ridged way between Alcester and Wallingford, crosses the Thames here, on the west side of

the church. Another earth-work, called by the inhabitants *Medler's Bank*, is supposed to have been thrown up during the Civil Wars. Some few years since, an urn full of Roman coins was found here.

Two miles south from Bensington, at Crowmarsh, there is a bridge over the Thames to Wallingford; about a mile from which is Monge-well House, the seat of the Bishop of Durham.

At TUFFIELD, a village about four miles and a half from Bensington, and on the right of our road, was formerly a house of Trinitarian friars, founded before the 33rd year of king Edward III.

About two miles from the last-mentioned place, is the village of NETTLEBED, noted for a singular spring, said never to fail in the driest summer. It is situated 40 miles from London, and contains 99 houses, and 501 inhabitants.

At the distance of about five miles from the last-mentioned place, is the town of HENLEY, pleasantly situated on the west side of the river Thames. This town is supposed to be the most ancient in the county, from its name being derived from the British word, *Hen and Ley*, signifying *Old Place*. It was formerly part of the estate of the barons of Hungerford. It is now a corporate town, governed by a high steward, recorder, mayor, 10 aldermen, and 16 burgesses. It was formerly a borough, and sent two members to parliament. It has of late years undergone very considerable improvements; the buildings, in general, having been modernized, and the streets widened, paved, and lighted, so that few traces of its antiquity are now to be seen; Roman coins have, however, frequently been found near its market-place.

The Church is an ancient spacious building, having a handsome lofty tower, said to have been erected by Cardinal Wolsey, with a peal of eight bells. Here are two Free Schools; and Alms-houses for 20 poor persons, beside considerable other charitable benefactions. The principal trade is in

corn, flour, malt, and beech-wood; and in its neighbourhood is produced pyrites, and a black flint, used in the glass-houses. The market, which is on Thursday, is always plentifully supplied with malt and grain, large quantities of which are sent by the Thames to London. It is situated 35 miles from London; and contains, according to the late returns, 522 houses, and 3117 inhabitants,

Henley is entered from London over a handsome stone bridge of five arches, finished in 1786. The key-stone on each face of the centre arch is adorned with a sculptured mask by the Hon. Mrs. Damer. One represents Thame, and that on the reverse, Isis, with fish playing in the wavy honours of his lower face, and bulrushes inserted in the fillet which binds his temples. The meanders of the Thames abound with picturesque grace. On the Oxfordshire side a rich spread of meadow, ornamented with the noble mansions of Fawley, forms the fore-ground to a soft and lovely range of woody hills. The Berkshire margin rises boldly to a loftiness of elevation which nature and art have united to adorn.

On leaving Henley, we proceed in a southerly direction, and at the distance of two miles and a half, pass through the village of SHIPLAKE, which contains 101 houses, and 476 inhabitants, and is situated 33 miles from London.

Three miles beyond Shiplake, on the right of our road, is CAVERSHAM PARK, the seat of Major Charles Marsac; about one mile beyond which is the parish of CAVERSHAM, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames, and adorned with several elegant mansions, parks, and gardens. At this place was formerly a priory of Black Canons, and king Charles I. was detained a prisoner here. It is situated 39 miles from London.

Journey from Banbury to Radcott Bridge; through Chipping Norton and Burford.

About two miles to the south-west of Banbury (which we have already described), and one to the

right of our road, is the small village of BROUGHTON, where is an ancient castle built on a delightful spot, and which is the occasional residence of the Lord Say and Sele.

Proceeding southward, at the distance of three miles from Banbury, we pass through the village of BLOXHAM, situated 72 miles from London, and about three miles from which is the village of SOUTH NEWINGTON, and about two miles and a half beyond, on the right of our road, is the village of SWARFORD, situated 71 miles from London,

Five miles from Swarford is CHIPPING NORTON, a large, regular, and well-built borough town, with a market on Wednesday, and seven annual fairs. Its name is supposed to be derived from *Cheapen*, a Saxon word, signifying a market or place of trade, as all the places appear to have been in the time of the Saxons which have the name of Chipping attached to them.

The Church, which is situated in the lower part of the town, is a noble structure, in the Gothic taste, 98 feet long, by 87 feet wide: the middle aisle, which is 46 feet high, is much admired for its light and curious workmanship in the windows. The church contains a number of brass monuments, of the 14th century, to the memory of divers merchants of the town, which shews it to have been formerly a place of great trade. The tower is lofty, with a peal of six musical bells. Near the church are some remains of a castle, and Roman coins are frequently found here. Chipping Norton sent burgesses to parliament once in the reign of Edward I. and twice in that of Edward III. but never since. The town is governed by two bailiffs and 12 burgesses, who are empowered by charter from James I. to hold a court, and determine actions under 4l. It has a Free Grammar School, founded by Edward VI. and on Chapel Heath, near the town, are annual horse-races. It is situated about 74 miles

from London, and contains 373 houses, and 1975 inhabitants. Its principal manufacture is woollen cloths for waggon tilts.

Four miles to the south of Chipping Norton, on the left of our road, is the hamlet of CHADLINGTON, which is ornamented with two respectable mansions, and gives name to a hundred in this county.

Returning to the turnpike-road, at the distance of about seven miles from Chipping Norton, is the village of SHIPTON, about four miles from which is the town of

BURFORD, situated at the western extremity of this county. It had formerly a considerable manufactory for rugs and duffels, as well as saddles. Here is a free Grammar School, over which is the Town Hall, wherein the assizes for the county of Oxford were held in the year 1636. The church is a large handsome structure, with a fine spire: there is also a meeting-house for Quakers, and two for other classes of dissenters. This town formerly sent a member to parliament; it had likewise a charter from Henry II. granting it all the customs of the townsmen of Oxford; and though it has lost most of them, it still retains the appearance of a corporation, having a common seal, and being governed by two bailiffs, and 12 burgesses, two constables, four tithingmen, &c.

At this place a synod was convened in the year 685, against the error of the British churches, in the observance of Easter; and at Battle edge, near this town, Cuthred, king of the West Saxons, beat Ethelbald, king of the Mercians, in a pitched battle, and the inhabitants formerly celebrated annually on Midsummer-eve a kind of festival, which they say commenced in honour of this battle.

This town is situated in a fine corn country, and a market is held here every Saturday. There are also two chartered fairs, on the 5th of July and 25th of September.

Burford is 73 miles from London, and contains,

according to the late returns, 231 houses, and 1342 inhabitants.

Proceeding southerly, we pass through a detached part of Berkshire of about one mile in extent, and at the distance of about seven miles from Burford, reach the village of CLANFIELD, situated 68 miles from London, two miles to the left of which is

BAMPTON, a market-town, pleasantly situated on a small stream that runs into the Isis, a little below the town. It is said by some writers to have been a place of some importance before the Conquest; but at present there is scarcely a building in the town that merits particular notice, except the church and the remains of an ancient castle; the former of which is a very spacious lofty edifice, with a large spire, and a peal of six fine bells. It had formerly a great trade for leather jackets, gloves, and breeches; and its market on Wednesdays was noted for fellmongers' ware. Little business is now transacted here. This town is situated 70 miles from London.

Returning from our digression, at the distance of about one mile and a half from Clanfield, and three miles from Bampton, is the hamlet of Radcot, situated near the Isis, over which is a bridge to Farringdon in Berkshire, from which it is distant two miles and a half.

*Journey from Little Rollwright to Stoken Church
through Woodstock and Oxford.*

Little Rollwright is a hamlet belonging to GREAT ROLLWRIGHT, a village situated about one mile and a half from the former. Near this village is that ancient monument called Rollrich Stones; they stand upright in a circle, being from five to seven feet high, and are supposed to be the vestiges of a druidical temple.

About two miles to the north-east of Great Rollwright is the village of HOOK NORTON, said to have been anciently a royal seat of the Saxon kings, though there are not at present the least remains of antiquity to justify such an assertion. The village,

which is situated 74 miles from London, contains 288 houses, and 1229 inhabitants. It is remarkable for a bloody battle, fought here between the Danes and the Saxons in the year 914, in which the latter were defeated, and there are in its neighbourhood several barrows, or sepulchral monuments.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance of about five miles from Rollwright, on the left is HERTHROP, the seat of the Right Honourable the Earl of Shrewsbury. It is situated on a small eminence, in a delightful part of the county, and possesses every charm that can result from a diversity of wood, water, eminence, and vales. An avenue of above two miles, planted on each side with forest-trees of advanced growth, and beautiful umbrage, interspersed with clumps of fir, leads from the north to the grand area before the house, and by its length and variety, forms an exceeding magnificent approach. The house is a regular edifice, consisting of four fronts, built in the most elegant style of architecture, and joined to the offices by open arcades. The entrance to the house is by a flight of steps, under a grand portico, supported by four lofty Corinthian columns. The hall is a well-proportioned room, 32 feet, by 27 feet 9 inches; it is finished in plain stucco, and adorned with vases and lamps, upon highly-finished brackets. On the first entrance the eye is agreeably surprised by the reflection of the avenue and part of the hall, from two large silvered sashes, on each side the door, leading to the saloon, which, by a pleasing deception, not only repeats the beautiful landscape, but raises the idea of another room of equal dimensions.

The Library is a most superb and magnificent room, 83 feet in length, and 20 in height. The ornaments of this room consist chiefly of the most elegant and highly-finished stucco, executed in a masterly manner, by the late and present Mr. Roberts; the designs of which are admirably adapted to the purposes of the place. On the north side are seven re-

cesses, one of which is the entrance from the hall, and the other six are designed for bookcases, and are ornamented with curious medallions of Cicero, Plato, Thucydides, Homer, Shakspeare, and Inigo Jones; in this side are also two superb chimney-pieces, by Carter, composed of the statuary and rich verd antique marble. The entrances at each end are formed to correspond with the other recesses; the semicircular arches over which, as well as that leading from the hall, are ornamented in stucco with fables from Æsop, admirably executed, and a medallion of the same kind over each chimney. The south side, which fronts the garden, consists of eight magnificent windows, with a pair of folding glass doors, which open to the terrace, and afford a most delightful and extensive prospect. The ceiling, which is entirely plain, is supported by columns of the Corinthian order, and is encompassed by an exceeding rich Ionic entablature. This room is likewise enriched by pendant ornaments, in alto-relievo, of still life, military, musical, and mathematical instruments; with a judicious mixture of fruit and flowers.

The drawing-room is 47 feet in length, by 25 in breadth, and 20 in height. It is furnished with most exquisite tapestry, representing the four quarters of the world, well expressed by assemblages of the natives, in their various habits and employments, except Europe, which is in masquerade; this tapestry is the work of Vanderborcht. Over the four doors are the Seasons and Elements, painted in a very peculiar style, these figures, in *claro obscuro*, are of inestimable value, and appear as if starting from the canvass. From the vast expression, yet exceeding light tint, of these pieces, the spectator is at first sight ready to pronounce them bas-reliefs, in white marble. The chimney-piece is extremely superb, composed of rich Egyptian, and statuary marble, executed by Carter. The cornice is supported by highly carved and polished figures, of

Ceres and Flora, about five feet high: the drapery of these figures, one in the ancient the other in the modern style, as well as their attitudes, are peculiarly striking and expressive. In the centre of the frieze is a raised tablet of the Choice of Hercules. Over the chimney-piece is a painting by Cornelius Van Orley, of the destruction of Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea. The ceiling consists of representations of the four quarters of the world; with the Elements and Seasons in stucco, interspersed with tablets and other decorations, and surrounded by a full enriched Corinthian entablature. On the opposite side to the chimney-pieces are two superb glasses, of one plate each, upwards of four feet in breadth, and nine feet high; under these glasses are two rich tables of Egyptian marble upon gilt and carved frames, and on the other piers are two girandoles, of exquisite workmanship, by Ansell. The proportion, decorations, and furniture of this apartment render it one of the most elegant rooms in this county. The settees and chairs are richly carved and gilt, the seats of which are covered with needle-work, in silk, representing bunches of flowers: here are also two curious fire-screens, by the same hand as the tapestry; one exhibits a Dutch merriment, the other Sportsmen returned from shooting, with their game.

The gardens belonging to this noble mansion are laid out with great judgment, and exhibit a variety of beautiful scenes, which strike the spectator in a most agreeable succession. To the south-west lofty trees, afford a most refreshing shade, interspersed with openings edged with flowers. Eastward a small stream is improved into a winding river, broken by cascades, and whose banks are adorned with seats, and a curious fancy building, called the Moss-house; this edifice is covered with reeds, and constructed of rustic oak: the inside is lined with moss of various colours, and the floor is paved in mosaic work, with horses' teeth polished. Upon entering this building,

there is a striking view of two cascades, which afford an agreeable surprise. This piece of water is crossed by a stone bridge, under which is an engine, which supplies the house with water; and above it, at the distance of 400 paces, is the most natural, if not the most striking of the cascades found here; it is built with petrifications and other curious stones; and upon the top is a terrace, planted on each side with flowering shrubs. From this bridge, in another direction, through a pleasant grove, is an ascent to a beautiful serpentine walk, also planted with flowering shrubs on each side, that terminates in an octangular bowling-green, from whence are eight extensive, different, and most delightful prospects. It is to be regretted that these fine gardens have lately experienced considerable neglect.

A short distance to the south-east of Heythorp, is the village of **CHURCH EMSTONE**, situated 69 miles from London.

About three miles from hence is the village of **KIDDINGTON**, situated on the Glyme river, which divides the parish into two parts, viz. Over and Nether Kiddington, in the latter of which stands the Church. The chancel is in the Norman or Saxon style, with a zig-zag arch behind the altar, that opened into the chancel of the old chapel, built by the family of the Salceys, about the time of King Stephen. The south door has a spacious porch, in which is an ancient monument of Walter Goodere. This parish was given by King Offa, in the year 780, to Worcester Priory. In the garden of the manor-house is an antique font, brought from Edward the Confessor's chapel at Islip, and said to be that wherein he received baptism. In Hillwood, near this place, is a Roman encampment, in extraordinary preservation; and in that division of the parish called the Upper Town, are the ruins of the old parochial cross, containing part of the shaft and base, built of stone.

STEEPLE BARTON, a village about two miles to

the north-east, has been occupied by the Romans, Mosaic pavements having been discovered in digging to plant trees.

Half a mile to the south-east of Kiddington is Glympton Park, the seat of Mrs. Wheate. About two miles from which, on the right of our road, is

DITCHLEY, the seat of the Right Honourable the Earl of Litchfield. It is built of hewn stone, and has a beautiful southern front, with two correspondent wings, commanding a most agreeable and extensive prospect, in which the magnificent palace of Blenheim has the principal effect.

In the centre of the front is the Hall, finely proportioned and elegantly decorated. Its sides and roof are ornamented with stucco, which is at once bold and delicate. Its door-cases, pediments, entablatures, and columns, of the Corinthian and composite order, are richly ornamented with gilding, &c. The ceiling contains an assembly of the gods, painted by Kent. Two of the compartments are filled with historical pieces from the *Æneid*, by the same hand, one of which represents *Æneas* meeting *Venus*, his mother, in the wood near Carthage, and the other *Venus* presenting *Æneas* with the new armour. The Sciences are introduced as ornaments, with busts of philosophers, poets, historians, and orators, viz. *Socrates*, *Virgil*, *Homer*, *Cicero*, *Sappho*, *Shakspeare*, *Dryden*, *Milton*, and *Livy*. Over the statues are bas-reliefs, copied from antiques out of the Florentine Museum, properly disposed, and a statue of the *Venus de Medici*. In this room is likewise a curious model of the *Radclivian Library* at Oxford. The chimney-piece is superb and lofty, and decorated with a portrait of the old lord, by *Akerman*.

The Dining-room is furnished with much elegance. Here is a capital full-length portrait of *Henry VIII.* supposed by *Hans Holbein*, executed with a strength and freedom not generally found in the performances of that high finisher. Also *Sir Harry Lee*,

with the mastiff which saved his life, by Johnson. The story of this piece is founded on a miraculous escape of Sir Harry, from being assassinated by one of his own servants, who had formed a design of robbing the house after he had murdered his master; but providentially, on the night this project was intended to be put in execution, the mastiff, though no favourite with, nor even before taken notice of by his master, accompanied him up stairs, crept under the bed, and could not be driven away by the servant; when at length Sir Harry ordered him to be left, and in the dead of night, the same servant entering the room to execute his design, was instantly seized by the dog, and upon being secured confessed his intentions.

In one corner of the piece are the following lines :

“ More faithful than favoured.

Reason in man cannot effect such love,

As nature doth in them that reason want ;

Ulysses true and kind his dog did prove,

When faith in better friends was very scant.

My travels for my friends have been as true,

Though not as far as fortune did him bear,

No friends my love and faith divided knew,

Though neither this nor that once equal'd were :

But in my dog, whereof I made no store,

I find more love than them I trusted more.”

The drawing-room is adorned with tapestry.—The subjects are the Muses and Apollo singing, and playing on their several instruments, Bacchanalian scenes and a vintage. The windows of this apartment open to the most agreeable landscape, which does not perplex the eye by the distance and multiplicity of its objects, but affords those gentle charms which arise from a single, distinct, and confined prospect. It principally consists of a winding valley, with a serpentine canal, covered with an elegant Chinese bridge. The whole is bounded by an easy spreading acclivity, interspersed with groups of trees. The roof of the saloon is stuccoed

in a rich though chaste style; in the middle compartment is Flora with the Zephyrs. The walls are also stuccoed and painted of an olive colour, on which are Minerva and Diana, whole-length bas-reliefs, in the antique style. Here is an excellent antique of the Goddess of Health, about 40 inches in height, purchased from Dr. Mead's collection. On its pedestal is a bas-relief of the head of Esculapius, cut with extraordinary boldness. - Here is also shewn an antique medallion of the Sailing Cupid; the diameter of which is about 12 inches.

The Chinese Drawing-room is an apartment curiously ornamented in the Chinese taste. Here are two striking pieces of tapestry; one of which represents the Cyclops forging the armour of Æneas; the other Neptune, with his proper attendants, giving directions about refitting a vessel, which has just been shipwrecked. Over the chimney-piece, which is finely finished in white marble, is a capital picture of the duke and duchess of York, and the princesses Mary and Ann, by Sir Peter Lely. Over the two doors are two masterly landscapes, by an Italian hand. The chairs are covered with tapestry, each of which is prettily ornamented, with the story of a fable from Æsop. In this room is a small fire-screen, beautifully worked by the old lady Litchfield. In conformity to the style of this apartment, here are two beautiful Chinese figures; one a Chinese Lady, the other a Porter with a chest of tea.

On the whole this seat is a noble repository of valuable and masterly portraits, executed by the most eminent artists in that species of painting, Rubens, Vandyke, Sir Peter Lely, and Johnson. As a piece of architecture it is inferior to none, for the justness of its proportions, and the convenient disposition of its apartments. With regard to furniture and decorations, it is finished with equal taste and splendour.

About two miles to the south-west of Ditchley, is CHARLBURY, formerly a market town, situated on a

dry healthy soil, 67 miles from London, and containing 195 houses, and 965 inhabitants. It has five large fairs annually for horses, cows, and all sorts of other cattle, on the following days, viz. the 1st of January, the second Friday in Lent, the second Friday in May, the second Friday in July, and the 10th of October. The Vicarage House has been lately much improved by Dr. Cobb, the vicar; and commands an extensive view of Whichwood Forest and the adjacent country. Near this town, on the borders of the forest, is Blandford House and Park, a seat belonging to his Grace the Duke of Marlborough.

Returning to our road, at the distance of four miles from Kiddington, is the town of Woodstock, pleasantly situated on a brook, which falls into the Isis. It is a borough and market-town, and contains several good buildings, and the streets are well paved. The Church is a handsome structure, and has a square tower, built with stone, also eight bells, and chimes that play at five, nine, and one: the tunes change every day in the week. The Town-house is a neat modern edifice. Here is also a good Free School, founded in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; three Alms-houses, endowed for three poor persons, and six more erected by the late Duchess of Marlborough. Woodstock is noted for its manufactures of fine wash-leather gloves, and polished steel trinkets.

The town, though small, sends two members to parliament; but it is wholly under the patronage of the Duke of Marlborough; and there having been no opposition to so potent an interest, the right of voting has never come under the adjudication of the House of Commons, it is admitted, however, to be in the mayor and commonalty. It is situated 62 miles from London, and contains 214 houses, and 1322 inhabitants, of whom 720 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. The market-day is Tuesday. Fair days, second Tuesday

after the 2nd of February, 5th of April, Whit-Tuesday, 2nd of August, 2nd of October, Tuesday after 2nd of November, and the 1st and 17th of December. Here are annual horse-races. The corporation consists of a high steward, recorder, two chamberlains, town-clerk, five aldermen (one of whom is always mayor), and 17 common councilmen.

Woodstock is so called from the Saxon word *Wadestoc*, signifying a woody place. It has been a royal seat, and here king Alfred translated *Boethius de Consolatione Philosophiæ*. In the time of king Ethelred it was so considerable a place that he called a parliament here. After the Conquest, Henry I. took great delight in the palace of this town, made some additions to the buildings, and in the year 1145, inclosed the park with a stone wall, which is said to have been the first enclosed park in England. In this palace Henry II. resided when Rice, prince of Wales, came in the year 1163, to do homage to that king and his son. But what has rendered this place most famous, was a labyrinth, said to have been built by that prince, called Rosamond's Bower, with a house in it to secrete his concubine Rosamond Clifford, from Eleanor his queen; but there are now no traces either of the palace or bower. In this palace the princess Elizabeth, afterward queen, was for some time kept prisoner. It retained its original splendour, and was inhabited by our kings, till the reign of Charles I. but began to be demolished in the succeeding times of confusion. Its magnificent ruins were remaining at the beginning of the 18th century, near the bridge to the north, on the spot where two sycamores have been since planted as a memorial.

Woodstock however is a town of high interest in many points of view, is distant about eight miles from the city of Oxford, on the north-west. Independent of the attraction gained from the neighbouring palace of Blenheim, Woodstock possesses undeniable claims on the respect and curiosity of

the examiner. It was here that some of the most august characters of English History resided in chivalric pomp; and here Chaucer, styled from circumstance of precedence, the father of English poetry, and deserving of elevated rank among his followers, on the ground of intrinsic merit, indulged delicious flights of imagination; here wrote many of the poems destined to transmit the character of his feelings to the sympathy of the latest posterity.

Old Woodstock, of which one venerable mansion, and a few irregular houses of the inferior order, now only remain, was built in a sheltered situation on the border of the river Glyme. The present town is placed on a fine and healthy eminence, and a progressive spirit of improvement is evident in every feature. The houses are chiefly composed of stone. Not any of the domestic buildings bear marks of great antiquity; but such as appear to have stood two centuries, like all the provincial tenements of the same age, are irregular in construction, and mean in character. These, however, are few, and act as emphatical memorials of the enlargement of idea and improvement of manners which have been the result of an extension of commerce. The majority of the buildings are desirably capacious, and many are of an embellished and ornamental description. Among the latter class must be mentioned the Rectory House, the residence of Dr. Mavor, a handsome stone structure erected by Bishop Fell; and the contiguous mansion of Pryse Pryse, Esq. Both these dwellings command exquisite views over Blenheim Park, so rich in circumstances of natural and artificial beauty. Hensington House, situate near the entrance of the town on the Oxford side, likewise possesses pleasing views, and is surrounded by well-ornamented grounds.

The town-hall is a handsome stone building, erected about the year 1766, after a design of Sir William Chambers, at the sole expense of his Grace the present Duke of Marlborough. Beneath the

hall is a piazza, used as a market-place. On the tympanum of a pediment in front of the edifice are the arms of the noble family of Marlborough.

Woodstock is a chapelry to the contiguous parish of Bladon; and the original place of worship was a chantry, founded in honour of "our Lady," by King John. At the dissolution Henry VIII. granted the Church to the Corporation of the town; but the patronage is in the gift of the Marlborough family. The south part of the present structure is a fragment of the ancient foundation; and on this side is a round-headed door-case, composed of red stone, and ornamented with chevron work. The northern face of the church was rebuilt about the year 1785; and at the same time a tower was erected at the west end. These alterations have been effected with considerable taste. The tower is of fair proportions, and charged with modest, yet sufficient ornaments.

The interior is arranged with decorous and respectable simplicity. The pews are handsome, and a good organ is placed in an appropriate situation. On the more ancient side three massy columns, support pointed arches. In the capitals are introduced various sculptures of the human countenance, all dissimilar, and chiefly tending to a comic effect. On the north every particular of building is modern, and remarkable for substantial plainness; a character of architecture perhaps best suited to buildings devoted to a sacred purpose. The font is of a recent date; the basin small, and the whole of a chaste and delicate construction.

The Register commences in 1653, and contains many entries of marriages between parties, strangers as well as parishioners, by the mayor of Woodstock, or by the person described as Justice of Peace for the incorporation, during the sway of the Parliament.

Adjoining the church is a grammar school, founded and endowed, in 1585, by Mr. Cornwell, a

native of this place, under a royal licence from Queen Elizabeth. The master must be a person in holy orders. and the Corporation are trustees. A charitable foundation of a more recent date likewise claims notice. Near the entrance of the town from Oxford is a range of alms-houses, erected and liberally endowed, in 1793, by Caroline, Duchess of Marlborough, for six poor widows.

Woodstock has two manufactures; those of polished steel and gloves, from which it derives considerable benefit. The articles of polished steel are entirely made from the old nails of horses' shoes, which are formed into small bars before applied to the various purposes of delicate workmanship. The lustre of the article thus tediously wrought is eminently fine, and the polish is restored at a trifling expense, however great the apparent injury committed by rust. The price, obtained for some specimens of the Woodstock steel will convey an idea of the skill and labour bestowed. A chain, weighing only two ounces, was sold in France for 170*l.* sterling. A box, in which the freedom of the borough was presented to Lord Viscount Cliefden, cost thirty guineas; and for a garter star, made for his grace the Duke of Marlborough, fifty guineas were paid. This manufacture was introduced by a person of the name of Metcalfe, in the beginning of the last century, but is now much declined, in consequence of the cheapness of the Birmingham and Sheffield wares.

The manufacture of leather into gloves and various other articles, was commenced at Woodstock nearly sixty years back, and has progressively risen in consequence and esteem. About 350 dozen pairs of gloves are now made weekly in the town and the neighbouring villages: and it is supposed that not less than sixty men, and thirteen hundred women and girls, find employment in various branches of the trade.

The internal government of Woodstock consists.

of five aldermen, one of whom is annually chosen mayor; a high steward; a recorder; two chamberlains, and a common clerk; with fifteen capital burgesses. The first charter of incorporation was granted by Henry VI. in 1543. This was confirmed, enlarged, or altered, by various succeeding monarchs, the last of whom was Charles II. who granted the charter under which the Corporation now act. A restrictive charter, forced upon the borough in the 4th of James II. was soon after set aside by proclamation; and the charter subsequently granted is almost the counterpart of that of New Windsor.

It is shown by the rolls of Parliament that Woodstock was a borough by prescription, long before it was incorporated. The place now returns two burgesses to Parliament, who are chosen by the mayor and commonalty. This privilege is given optionally; and it appears from a former charter that the borough "was specially exempted from being compellable to send two members, out of royal grace and favour, on account of the expense attending the exercise of this franchise, when representatives were paid for their services in Parliament."

As a mark of adherence to ancient customs, it may be observed that the festivities termed Whitsun Ales are still retained in practice. The ceremony occurs every seventh year, when the inhabitants lay claim to certain portions of wood from Whichwood Forest to assist in the celebrations of the season.

Woodstock has not a meeting-house of any kind for the reception of Dissenters; nor does the town contain any inhabitants who professedly dissent from the established church.

According to the returns of 1811, the number of Houses is 227, and that of the inhabitants 1419.

Woodstock gives the title of Viscount to the Duke of Portland.

The honour of Woodstock was, in the reign of

Queen Anne, settled by parliament upon John Churchill, duke of Marlborough, who commanded the army of the grand alliance formed by great Britain, Holland, Portugal, and other powers, against France and Spain, and upon his descendants male and female, as a monument of national gratitude for his bravery and conduct.

A Palace was also erected for him at the public expense, in a most delightful situation, about half a mile to the west of Woodstock, which, to commemorate the important victory he obtained over the French and Bavarians at Blenheim, was called **BLENHEIM HOUSE**. It is built wholly of free-stone, from a design of Sir John Vanburgh. The roof is adorned with a handsome balustrade, and much sculpture, but the towers have a heavy appearance, like most of that architect's performances, which occasioned the wits of the age to write the following epitaph on him after his death :

“ Lie heavy on him, Earth, for he
Laid many a heavy load on thee.”

In many parts the architecture is noble ; but in others it is spoiled by a profusion of decorations, which destroys the simplicity of the design ; upon the whole, however, it must be acknowledged to be a most magnificent structure.

The entrance to the Park, which is 12 miles in circumference, is through a spacious and elegant portal of the Corinthian order, from whence a noble prospect is opened to the palace, the bridge, the lake, with its valley, and other beautiful scenes of the park. The house, in particular, which is seen from this point obliquely, is probably no where seen to greater advantage. The front of this noble edifice is extended to the length of 348 feet, from wing to wing, and consists of a variety of beautiful and noble architecture. On the pediment of the south front, towards the garden, is a bust larger than life, of Louis XIV. taken from the gates of Tournay. The entrance to the house is on the east, through a portal, built in the style of

martial architecture, on the top of which is a reservoir, which supplies the house with water from the river. This portal leads to a quadrangle, chiefly consisting of arcades and offices, beyond which is the grand area.

In the centre of the front a superb portico, elevated on massy columns, leads to the Hall. This magnificent room runs to the height of the house, and is of proportionable breadth; it is supported by Corinthian pillars. The ceiling is painted by Sir James Thornhill, allegorically representing Victory crowning John, Duke of Marlborough, and pointing to a plan of the battle of Blenheim. In this room are two statues in bronze; viz. the Venus de Medicis, and the Faun, both from the originals in marble in the Duke of Tuscany's collection at Florence, and executed by Max. Soldani Benzi, at Florence, in the year 1711. Over the door leading to the saloon, is a bust of John, duke of Marlborough. On the left of the hall is a passage leading to the apartments, finely hung with rich tapestry, representing Alexander's battles, with many pieces of Scripture history; there are also some fine paintings by Vandyke, and other masters, but they are so numerous that to describe the whole which adorn this magnificent palace would require a volume; many of them, however, are executed by the greatest masters.

The pictures in the Bow-window room, are by Schiavoni, Reynolds, Kneller, Tintoret, Rubens, Teniers, Giorgioni, &c. and the tapestry represents various battles of the Duke, one of which is that of Blenheim. The east dressing room is furnished with crimson damask, and decorated with several capital paintings, as well as the duke's dressing room, and the grand cabinet.

The Saloon is grand, and proportioned to the general magnificence: and the lower part is lined with marble, which renders it a pleasing retreat in the hot weather; the walls are painted with representations of the different nations in their various habits and

modes of dress, by La Guerre. The ceiling represents the Duke as stopped by Peace in the career of his victories, and Time reminding him of his own rapid flight by the same hand. Over the chimney, on the right hand from the entrance, is a bust of Caracalla, and over the other a Roman consul.

A series of smaller though magnificent apartments lead to the Library, which is a most superb room, being 183 feet long, 31 feet 9 inches wide in the centre, and 28 feet 6 inches at each end. The Doric pilasters of marble, with the complete columns of the same, which support a rich entablature, the window frames, the surrounding basement of black marble, and the stuccoed compartments of the vaulted ceiling, are in the highest taste both of design and finishing. It was originally intended as a gallery for paintings, but the grandfather of the present duke adding utility to elegance, furnished it with the noble collection of books, made by Lord Sunderland, his grace's father; their number is said to amount to 24,000 volumes, which have been allowed to be worth 80,000*l.* and is, perhaps, the best private collection in England. They are kept under gilt wire lattices. At one end of the room is a highly-finished statue of Queen Anne, by Rysbrack, with the following inscription:

“To the Memory of Queen ANNE,
under whose auspices
JOHN, Duke of MARLBOROUGH
conquered,
And to whose Munificence
He and his posterity
with gratitude
Owe the possession of Blenheim.
A. D. MDCCXXVI.”

There are also in this room two marble statues on mahogany terms, one of Diana, and one of Julia Domna; the latter antique. Also whole length portraits of King William III. Queen Anne; John, Duke of Marlborough; Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough;

Charles, Duke of Marlborough; Elizabeth, Duchess of Marlborough: the Honourable John Spencer; the Right Honourable Lady Georgiana Spencer, now Countess Cowper; Elizabeth, Countess of Bridgewater; Anne, Countess of Sunderland; John, Duke of Montague, and Francis, Earl of Godolphin. From the bow windows of this noble gallery there is a delightful prospect of the declivity descending to the water, and the gradual ascent of the venerable groves which cover the opposite hill.

The Chapel is one of the wings, in which is a superb monument to the memory of the first Duke and Duchess, by Rysbrack: they are represented with their two sons, who died young, as supported by Fame and History. Beneath, in basso-relievo, is the taking of Marshal Tallard.

The China Gallery is furnished with a most elegant and valuable collection of Dresden china, given to the Duke by the King of Poland, in return for a pack of stag-hounds: It consists of turcens, sets of plates and fantastical figures; the colours of which are remarkably lively, and the representations highly natural. Here are likewise some beautiful and costly jars, collected at a great expense by the late duchess dowager, besides other fine china of modern manufacture.

The gardens are spacious, and include a great variety of ground; the noble descent on the south-west side, the vastness and beauty of the water, the grandeur of the opposite bank, the cascade, the new bridge, and lower piece of water, form altogether such an assemblage of great and beautiful objects as is scarcely to be met with. The appearance of the ground on the south-east is a happy contrast to the south-west side; the gardens here seem to lose themselves in the park, amidst a profusion of venerable oaks and intersected avenues, from whence they derive an air of confusion and indeterminate extent.

These gardens have been considerably enlarged,

and were thrown into the form they now wear by the late Duke of Marlborough, who likewise farther beautified them by the addition of some judicious and well-placed ornaments, particularly the Temple of Diana, and two most noble bronzes, the Pancratiastæ, and L'Arratino, the execution of Max. Soldani Benzi, of Florence, with some copies of antique vases in stone.

In the new part of the gardens, near the cascade, a fountain is erected, which was a present to John, Duke of Marlborough; a work executed with consummate taste under the direction of the celebrated Bernini, after the model of the famous one in the Piazza Navonæ at Rome: the four river gods, represented as the guardian genii of the water, the horse also and lion are exquisite pieces of sculpture: in the centre is an obelisk, on one side of which is the subsequent Latin inscription, and on the three other sides is the same in three different languages, Greek, Italian, and Spanish:

“ Ad Innocentium XI. Summum Pontificem.

Pro Carolo II, Hispaniarum Rege.

Excelc: D: Gazpar: D: De. Haro, et Guzman,
Murchio. D. Carpio. Et Helicheo Orator.

Ad Typum Molis. In Agonali Foro Erectæ

Ab Equite. Bernino, Opus. Hoc. Extrui.

Jussit, Eodem, dirigente, Qui. Interim,

Dum perficeretur. Defunctus.

Hoc. Posthumo. Partu: Inexhaustam.

Mentis. Fœcunditatem Clausit.

Anno Dom. M. DC. LXXXI.

Near this piece of Sculpture is a mineral spring, called New-found Well, which flows into a beautiful antique basin, externally adorned with figures in basso relievo, from which it is discharged by the mouths of two lions near the top, and immediately disappearing soon enters the lake.

About the middle of the grand approach, is a magnificent bridge, consisting of three arches, the

centre one of which is larger than the Rialto, at Venice; the water is formed into a spacious lake, which covers the whole extent of a capacious valley, surrounded by an artificial declivity of a prodigious depth, and is indisputably one of the finest pieces of artificial water in this kingdom.

The Park contains many delightful scenes, and the admirer of rural variety will be here gratified with every circumstance of beauty, which he can expect from diversified nature: from hill and valley, water and woods. In this Park originally stood the royal palace, before-mentioned, in which Edmund, the second son of Edward I., was born, and thence denominated Edmund of Woodstock; as was Edward the Black Prince. The romantic retreat, called Fair Rosamond's Bower, was situated on the hill, to the north-west of the bridge, above a remarkable bath, or spring, called at present Rosamond's Well.

In this park is an echo, which, according to Dr. Plot, when little wind was stirring, repeated 17 syllables very distinctly, and in the night 20. He says the object of it was the hill with the trees on the top of it, half a mile from the town, in the way to the Earl of Rochester's Lodge, and the true place for the speaker on the opposite hill, just without the gate, at the end of the town; but this echo has been greatly impaired by the removal of buildings.

In the grand avenue, leading to the house, is a stately column, terminated by a statue of the late duke; on the pedestal of which is an inscription, written in a plain, elegant, and masculine style, and as it contains a short enumeration of the whole of the transactions, and conquests of that illustrious general, we shall insert it at length. It is as follows:

“The Castle of *Blenheim* was founded by Q. ANN,

 In the fourth Year of her Reign;

In the Year of the Christian *Æra* 1705;

A Monument designed to perpetuate the Memory of
the signal Victory

Obtain'd over the *French* and *Bavarians*,

Near the village of *Blenheim*,

On the Banks of the *Danube*,

By JOHN, Duke of MARLBOROUGH;

The Hero not only of his Nation, but of his age;
Whose Glory was equal in the Council and in the Field;

Who by Wisdom, Justice, Candour, and Address,

Reconciled various, and even opposite Interests;

Acquired an Influence, which no Rank,

no Authority can give,

Nor any Force but that of superior Virtue;

Became the fixed important Center,

Which united in one common Cause

The principal states of *Europe*;

Who by military Knowledge, and irresistible Valour,

In a long Series of uninterrupted Triumphs,

Broke the power of *France*,

When raised the highest, when exerted the most;

Rescued the *Empire* from Desolation;

Asserted and confirmed the Liberties of *Europe*.

“PHILIP, a grandson of the house of *France*, united to the interests, directed by the policy, supported by the Arms of that crown, was placed on the Throne of *Spain*. King *William* the Third beheld this formidable Union of two great, and once rival, monarchies. At the End of a Life spent in defending the Liberties of *Europe*, he saw them in their greatest Danger. He provided for their Security, in the most effectual Manner. He took the Duke of *Marlborough* into his Service.

“Ambassador extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
To the *States General* of the United Provinces,

“The Duke contracted several Alliances before the Death of King *WILLIAM*. He confirmed and improved these. He contracted others, after the Accession of Queen *ANNE*; and re-united the con-

federacy, which had been dissolved at the end of a former War, in a stricter and firmer League.

“Captain General and Commander in chief
Of the Forces of GREAT BRITAIN,

“The Duke led to the Field the Army of the Allies. He took with surprising Rapidity *Venlo*, *Flithemonde*, *Stevenswaert*, and *Liege*. He extended and secured the Frontiers of the *Dutch*. The enemies, whom he found insulting at the Gates of *Nimeguen*, were driven to seek for Shelter behind their Lines. He forced *Bonne*, *Huy*, *Limbourg*, in another Campaign. He opened the Communication of the *Rhine*, as well as the *Maes*. He added all the County between these Rivers to his former Conquests. The Arms of *France* favoured by the Defection of the Elector of *Bavaria*, had penetrated into the Heart of the *Empire*. This mighty Body lay exposed to immediate Ruin. In that memorable Crisis, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH led his Troops with Unexampled Celerity, Secresy, and Order, from the *Ocean* to the *Danube*. He saw; he attacked; nor stopped, but to conquer the Enemy. He forced the *Bavarians*, sustained by the *French*, in their strong Intrenchments at *Schellenberg*. He passed the *Danube*. A second royal Army, composed of the best Troops of *France*, was sent to reinforce the first. That of the confederates was divided. With one Part of it the Siege of *Ingolsdadt* was carried on. With the other the Duke gave Battle to the united Strength of *France* and *Bavaria*. On the second Day of *August*, 1704, he gained a more glorious Victory than the histories of any Age can boast. The heaps of Slain were dreadful proofs of his Valour. A Marshal of *France*, whole Legions of *French* his prisoners, proclaimed his Mercy. *Bavaria* was subdued. *Ratisbon*, *Augsburg*, *Ulm*, and *Memingen*, all the Usurpations of the Enemy, were recovered. The Liberty of the *Diet*, the Peace of the *Empire*, were restored. From the *Danube*

the Duke turned his victorious Arms toward the *Rhine* and the *Moselle*. *Landau, Treves, Traerbach*, were taken. In the Course of one Campaign the very Nature of the War was changed. The invaders of other States were reduced to defend their own. The Frontier of *France* was exposed in its weakest Part to the Efforts of the Allies.

“ That he might improve his advantage, that he might push the sum of things to a speedy Decision, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH led his troops early in the following year once more to the *Moselle*. They, whom he had saved a few months before, neglected to second him now. They, who might have been his companions in conquest, refused to join him. When he saw the generous designs he had formed, frustrated by private interest, by pique, by jealousy, he returned with speed to the *Maes*. He returned, and fortune and victory returned with him. *Liege* was relieved; *Huy* retaken; the *French*, who had pressed the army of the *States-General* with superior numbers, retired behind intrenchments, which they deemed impregnable. The Duke forced these intrenchments, with considerable loss on the seventh day of *July, 1705*. He defeated a great part of the army, which defended them. The rest escaped by a precipitate retreat. If advantages proportionable to this success were not immediately obtained, let the failure be ascribed to that misfortune, which attends most confederacies, a division of opinions, where one alone should judge; a division of powers, where one alone should command. The disappointment itself did honour to the Duke. It became the wonder of mankind how he could do so much under those restraints which had hindered him from doing more.

“ Powers more absolute were given him afterwards. The encrease of his powers multiplied his victories. At the opening of the next campaign, when all his army was not yet assembled, when it was hardly known that he had taken the field, the noise of his triumphs was heard over *Europe*. On the 12th of

May, 1706, he attacked the *French* at *Ramilies*. In the space of two hours, the whole army was put to flight. The vigour and conduct, with which he improved this success, were equal to those with which he gained it. *Louvain, Brussels, Molines, Liege, Ghent, Oudenard, Antwerp, Damme, Bruges, Coutray*, surrendered. *Ostend, Menin, Dendermond, Aeth* were taken. *Brabant* and *Flanders* were recovered. Places, which had resisted the greatest Generals for months, for years; provinces, disputed for ages, were the conquests of a summer. Nor was the Duke content to triumph alone. Solicitous for the general interest, his care extended to the remotest scenes of the war. He chose to lessen his own army, that he might enable the leaders of other armies to conquer. To this it must be ascribed that *Turin* was relieved, the Duke of *Savoy* re-instated, the *French* driven with confusion out of *Italy*.

“ These victories gave the confederates an opportunity of carrying the war, on every side, into the dominions of *France*. But she continued to enjoy a kind of peaceful neutrality in *Germany*. From *Italy* she was once alarmed, and had no more to fear. The entire reduction of this power, whose ambition had caused, whose strength supported the war, seemed reserved for him alone, who had so triumphantly begun the glorious work.

“ The barrier of *France*, on the side of the *Low Countries*, had been forming for more than half a century. What art, power, expense could do, had been done to render it impenetrable. Yet here she was most exposed; for here the Duke of MARLBOROUGH threatened to attack her.

“ To cover what they had gained by surprise, or had been yielded to them by treachery, the *French* marched to the banks of the *Schelde*. At their head were the Princes of the Blood, and their most fortunate General, the Duke of *Vendosme*. Thus commanded, thus posted, they hoped to check the victor in his course. Vain was their hopes. The Duke of MARL-

BOROUGH passed the river in their sight. He defeated their whole army. The approach of night concealed, the proximity of *Ghent* favoured their flight. They neglected nothing to repair their loss; to defend their frontier. New Generals, new armies, appeared in the *Netherlands*. All contributed to enhance the glory, none were able to retard the progress of the confederate arms.

“*Lisle*, the bulwark of this barrier, was besieged. A numerous garrison and a Marshal of *France* defended the place. Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy* commanded, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH, covered and sustained the siege. The rivers were seized, and the communication with *Holland* interrupted. The Duke opened new communications with great labour and much greater art. Through countries, over-run by the enemy, the necessary convoys arrived in safety. One alone was attacked. The troops, which attacked it were beat. The defence of *Lisle* was animated by assurances of relief.

“The *French* assembled all their force. They marched towards the town. The Duke of MARLBOROUGH offered them battle, without suspending the siege. They abandoned the enterprize. They came to save the town. They were spectators of its fall.

“From this conquest the Duke hastened to others. The posts taken by the enemy on the *Schelde* were surprised. That river was passed the second time; and notwithstanding the great preparations made to prevent it, without opposition.

“*Brussels*, besieged by the elector of *Bavaria*, was relieved. *Ghent* surrendered to the Duke in the middle of a winter remarkably severe. An army, little inferior to his own, marched out of the place.

“As soon as the season of the year permitted him to open another campaign, the Duke besieged and took *Tournay*. He invested *Mons*. Near this city the *French* army, covered by thick woods, defended by treble entrenchments, waited to molest, nor pre-

sumed to offer battle. Even this was not attempted by them with impunity. On the last day of *August*, 1709, the Duke attacked them in their camp. All was employed, nothing availed against the resolution of such a General; against the fury of such troops. The battle was bloody. The event decisive. The woods were pierced. The fortifications trampled down. The enemy fled. The town was taken. *Douay, Bethune, Aire, St. Venant, Bouchain* underwent the same fate in two succeeding years. Their vigorous resistance could not save them. The army of *France* durst not attempt to relieve them. It seemed preserved to defend the capital of the monarchy.

“ The Prospect of this extreme distress was neither distant nor dubious. The *French* acknowledged their Conqueror, and sued for Peace.

“ These are the Actions of the Duke of
MARLBOROUGH :

Perform'd in the Compass of a few Years,
Sufficient to adorn the Annals of Ages.

The Admiration of other Nations
Will be conveyed to latest Posterity,
In the Histories even of the Enemies of *BRITAIN*.

“ The Sense, which the *BRITISH* Nation had
Of his transcendent Merit,
Was expressed

In the most solemn, most effectual, most
durable Manner.

The ACTS of *PARLIAMENT*, inscribed on this Pillar,
Shall stand,

As long as the *BRITISH* Name and Language last,
Illustrious Monuments
Of *MARLBOROUGH*'s Glory
And

Of *BRITAIN*'s Gratitude.”

The house itself was built at the public expense ; but the bridge, the column just mentioned, and the portal contiguous to the town, were erected solely at the charge of Sarah, duchess dowager of Marlborough.

The duke's descendants are obliged, by way of homage, for the tenure of this honour, or manorial district, to present annually a standard to the king on the 2nd of August, the anniversary of the victory of Blenheim; this standard is kept in the palace at Windsor.

About one mile to the south-west of Woodstock is the village of **BLADON**.

At **STONESFIELD**, a village situated about a mile to the west of Blenheim Park, several Roman pavements and buildings have been discovered within these few years.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance of two miles and a half from Woodstock, is the village of **BEGBROOKE**.

One mile and a half from Begbrooke is the village of **YARNTON**; the same distance beyond which, after crossing the Oxford Canal, is the township of **WOOLVERCOT**; one mile and a half beyond which is the city of Oxford.

After passing through the city of Oxford, we proceed in an easterly direction, and at the distance of five miles and a half pass through the village of **WHEATLEY**, situated 48 miles from London.

To the north-east of Wheatley, at the village of **Holton**, is **HOLTON PARK**, the seat of Edmund Biscoe, Esq. About half a mile from which we cross the Thame river, and proceeding easterly, on our left, pass Ricot Park, where was formerly a seat of the Earl of Abingdon; about two miles beyond which is the village of **TETSWORTH**, situated 44 miles from London.

About one mile to the north-east of the last-mentioned village is **THAME PARK**, the seat of Miss Wykham; one mile and a half beyond which is **THAME**, a market-town, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thame, 10 miles from Oxford, and 46 from London. The town consists chiefly of one large street, in the centre of which is the Market-place. This town has the reputation of being a

burgh in the time of the Danes, who are said to have erected a fortification here, which was taken by Edward the Elder in the year 941, and the town suffered much by the Danes in 1010, when they over-ran the kingdom. In 1138, Alexander, bishop of Lincoln, erected a monastery near this town, which at the general Dissolution, was given to the Duke of Somerset. In the reign of Henry III. Lexington, bishop of Lincoln, to whose see the manor belonged, brought the great road to Aylesbury through the middle of the town, which then began to flourish. The Church is a large Gothic structure, near which are the remains of a prebendal building. It has a Free School, as also an Alms-house, for five poor men and a woman. The market, which is well furnished with live cattle, and all necessaries, is on Tuesday; and the fairs on Easter Tuesday and Old Michaelmas Day.

About four miles to the south-east of Thame is the village of CHINNOR. At this place the Consular or Prætorian Way, called *Ikenild Street*, enters this county, which it entirely crosses in a south-westerly direction, and enters Berkshire, near the village of Goring.

Two miles to the south-west of Chinnor, is the village of ASTON ROWANT. This village is remarkable for a kind of markasite, by some called crow iron, which is found here. About two miles to the south-west of Aston Rowant, on the right of our road, is the village of SHIRBORN. Here is a fine seat belonging to the Earl of Macclesfield.

About one mile to the south of the last-mentioned village, is the town of WATLINGTON, a place of great antiquity, and supposed to have derived its name from the manner of the ancient Britons building their houses with wattles, or wicker work. It had anciently a castle, but the only traces of it left are an eminence and a moat, the latter of which is now converted into a fish-pond. At present the town does not contain any thing remarkable, except a

market-house, and a Free Grammar School. The town, which is situated 55 miles from London, contains, according to the late returns, 234 houses, and 1150 inhabitants. It has a weekly market on Saturday, and two annual fairs on the 25th of March and 10th of October.

Returning from our digression, at the distance of seven miles from Tetsworth, and 20 from Oxford, is the village of **STOKEN CHURCH**, situated 36 miles from London, and containing 185 houses, and 888 inhabitants.

Journey from Cotesford to Oxford, through Middleton Stoney.

COTESFORD is a small village, situated on the borders of Northamptonshire, and about one mile from the turnpike road, and 60 from London; it contains 23 houses, and 106 inhabitants.

Proceeding in a southerly direction, at the distance of four miles from Cotesford, we pass through the village of **ARDLEY**. About three miles to the west of which is the village of **STRATTON AUDLEY**. Near this place are the remains of an ancient castle, which is said to have flourished in the time of king Stephen, and to have been destroyed by order of that monarch.

Returning to our road, at the distance of two miles from Ardley, is **MIDDLETON STONEY**, a township, situated 57 miles from London; and about two miles to the east of which is

BICESTER, a handsome and well-built market-town, situated on a rivulet that runs into the Charwell, at Islip. The Church, which is neat, large, and commodious, has a lofty tower, with a remarkable fine-toned organ, and a good ring of bells. In the church and chancel are many curious and costly monuments, particularly one lately erected to the memory of the late Sir Edward Turner, and his lady. Here is also a handsome meeting-house for dissenters. It has likewise a Charity School on a liberal scale, and among other charities is one

called the Feoffees; it is the net produce of certain lands about 120*l.* a year value, which is applied in the relief of decayed tradesmen. The parish is divided into two districts or townships, for the maintenance of its poor, called the Market End, and King's End. The only manufacture worthy of note carried on here, is that for the common leather slippers, where it is supposed more are made than at any other place in the kingdom. The manufactory of sack-cloth and the combing of Jersey, which have been carried on to a great extent, have of late years been much on the decline, the poor now, and for some time past, having been employed in the lace-trade. This town is noted for the excellency of its malt-liquor. It has a good market on Friday, and those in the spring and autumn, for the sale of sheep, are very large, being much resorted to by graziers, even at twenty miles distance. It has seven annual fairs.

Bicester, which appears to have been a place of great antiquity, is situated 58 miles from London, and contains 424 houses, and 2156 inhabitants.

In the neighbourhood of this town are the remains of an old fortification, called Alcester, which, in the Saxon language, signifies an old castle; they are situated on the Roman highway, called Akeman Street, and their area is now placed under the operation of the plough. That this was a place of great strength, and even the site of a once-flourishing city, is evident from the great number of coins and other antiquities that have been dug up; and it is no uncommon thing for the husbandmen to break their ploughs against the ruins of the foundation. The city was fenced round with a bank and ditch, which are still visible, and the sides faced the four cardinal points. Great foundations have been likewise found in the adjoining fields; and on the west is an artificial mount, called Castle Hill, which is full of Roman bricks, stones, and foundations.

Returning from our digression, at the distance of

three miles from Middleton Stoney, is the village of **WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN**. About one mile to the north-west of which is **KIRKLINGTON**. To the east of this village is Kirklington Park, the seat of Sir Henry W. Dashwood, Bart.

About one mile to the south of Kirklington is the village of **BLETCHINGTON**. To the north of this village is Bletchington Park, late the seat of A. Annesley, Esq.

Two miles to the north-east of Bletchington, on the left of our road, is **ISLIP**, a place noted in history as the birth-place of Edward the Confessor, whose father had a palace near the church, not a trace of which is now remaining. This village is situated on the river Charwell.

Returning to our road, at the distance of four miles from Weston-on-the-Green, we cross the river Charwell, at a place called Gosford Bridge, four miles and a half from which is the city of Oxford.

Journey from Burford to Ensham, through Witney.

On leaving Burford, which we have already described in a former journey, we proceed in an easterly direction, and, at the distance of about two miles, pass the village of **ASTALL** on our left. This village is situated 70 miles from London.

About a half a mile to the north-west of Astall is the small village of Swinbrook, where the family of Fettiplace had formerly a residence.

At **MINSTER LOVEL**, a village about two miles to the east of Astall, and half a mile to the left of our road, are the remains of an ancient priory, formerly a cell to one of the Norman Abbeys; it was situated in a valley, close to the northernmost bank of the Windrush, and about 100 yards south of the parish church. It appears, from its ruins, to have been a large and elegant building. Some buildings, formerly offices to the monastery, are converted into out houses, for an adjoining farm.

At two miles from Minster Lovel we enter

WITNEY, a town of considerable antiquity, pleasantly situated, 69 miles from London, on the river Windrush, near the Roman-highway, called Akeman Street. It was a considerable place before the Conquest, after which the number of its inhabitants increased so fast, that it received summonses to send members to parliament in the reign of Edward II. which it continued to do till the 33d of Edward III. and no longer.

The town consists of two streets; at the upper end of the principal one stands the Church, a handsome and spacious structure, built in a rich style of Gothic architecture, with a fine spire, and a peal of eight bells. Here is an extensive Free School founded by Henry Box, a citizen of London, in the reign of Charles II. There is also an Alms-house for widows, and a Charity School. Witney has long been noted for its manufacture of blankets, which employs a great number of hands, and in the reign of Queen Anne the blanket weavers were incorporated, under the style of the master, assistants, wardens, and commonalty of the blanket weavers of Witney; they have also their hall, in which they regulate all matters respecting the measure, mark, and staple commodity. The blankets are scoured by mills, erected on the river Windrush, whose water is said to have a peculiar nitrous quality, well adapted for the purpose. The market-day is on Thursday; and its fairs are Easter Tuesday, Holy Thursday, 10th July, Thursday before the 10th October, Thursday after September 8, and the 4th of December. It is a borough town, governed by two bailiffs, chosen annually on the first Tuesday after St. Michael; and consists of 520 houses, and 2722 inhabitants.

Witney was one of the manors which Alwin, bishop of Winchester, gave to the church of St. Swithin there, on Queen Emma's passing over the fiery ordeal.

Three miles to the south of Witney is Cockthorpe, heretofore the residence of the late Earl

of Harcourt, now the seat of Maximilian Western, Esq.

At **COGGES**, a village about two miles to the north-east of Cockthorpe, was formerly a small priory.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance of five miles from Witney, is the village of **EYNHAM**, situated near the river Isis, over which it has a handsome stone bridge. It was once a place of great repute, having in it a noble monastery, scarcely any relics, however, are now to be discovered: it was founded in the time of the Saxons, when Eynsham was a royal village. Till within the last century, an old custom prevailed in this parish, by which the townspeople were allowed, on Whit-Monday, to cut down and carry away as much timber, as could be drawn by men's hands into the Abbey yard, the churchwardens previously marking out such timber, by giving the first chop: so much as they could carry out again, notwithstanding the opposition of the servants of the abbey to prevent it, they were to keep for the reparation of the church. But about the beginning of the last century this practice was laid aside by mutual consent. Eynsham is situated 61 miles from London.

About two miles to the south-west of Eynsham, is **STANTON HARCOURT**, a village situated on the banks of the Thames. This place is noted, as having some curious remains of antiquity in the seat of the Harcourt family. The Chapel, says Mr. Grose, is undoubtedly very ancient, as are most of the buildings of this venerable mansion, which, with the manor, have been in the family of the Harcourts upwards of six centuries. The exact time of their erection is not known.

The inside of the chapel is still entire. It was the private oratory or place of worship of the family; the ceiling, which was painted, carved, and gilded, is in tolerable preservation. It joined to the great hall with which it communicated by a door opposite the altar, above which was a window, enriched

with stained glass, whereon were depicted the different quarterings borne by the Harcourts, and also the portraits of persons habited like warriors, having on their shields and mantles the arms and crests of that ancient family. The stained glass was removed several years ago, to prevent its being destroyed.

The Chapel is now kept locked up, it not being made use of. In the tower are three rooms, and over a part of the chapel is a fourth, all of them accessible, by means of the winding stairs of stone that lead to the leads. One of these rooms Pope made use of as a study, having passed two summers at Stanton Harcourt, for the sake of retirement, while employed in his translation of Homer: the fifth volume of which he finished here, as appears by the following memorandum, with a diamond, on a piece of red stained glass, now in the possession of Lord Harcourt.

"In the year 1718,
Alexander Pope
finished here the
fifth volume of Homer."

Here too Pope wrote his epitaph on the two lovers struck dead by lightning; an event which happened in the common field near this house, during his residence here. This epitaph is incised on a mural tablet on the outer wall of the parish church, within which building is his celebrated epitaph on the honourable Simon Harcourt.

The estate of Stanton Harcourt was held of the crown by the following service: The Lord of the place was bound to find four browsers (persons so called) in Woodstock park in winter time, when the snow shall happen to fall, and tarry for the space of two days; and so to find the said browsers there browsing so long as the snow doth lye; every browser to have his lodging every night, one billet of wood the length of his axe helve, and that to carry to his lodging upon the edge of his axe. And the King's bailiff of the demesnes or the hundred of Woodstock

coming to give warning of the approach of the said browsers, was to blow his horn at the gate of the manor of Stanton Harcourt; and then the said bailiff was to have a castle of bread, a gallon of ale, and a piece of beef, of the said Lord; and the said Lord, or other for the time being, was to have of customary early out of the said park, one buck in summer, and one doe in winter. The lord of Stanton was likewise to make, rear, and carry, the grass growing in a certain meadow within the park of Woodstock.

The ancient family of Harcourt chiefly resided on this manor till the latter part of the seventeenth century, and some curious fragments of a mansion constructed by them at a very early period are still in existence.

The porter's lodge is the most modern part. On either side of the gate are the arms Harcourt, impaling Darrel: a proof that the gate was erected by Sir Simon Harcourt, who died in 1547.

The kitchen is on a construction of which we have only one more example remaining in England; the kitchen formerly appertaining to the abbey of Glastonbury. The walls are three feet thick. "Below, the room is nothing but a large square, and octangular above, ascending like a tower; the fires being made against the walls, and the smoke climbing up them, without any tunnels, or disturbance to the cooks; which, being stopped by a large conical roof at the top, goes out at loop-holes, on every side, according as the wind sits; the loop-holes, at the side next the wind being shut with folding doors, and the adverse side opened. 'Thus,' says Plot, 'one may truly call it either a kitchen within a chimney, or a kitchen without one.' The date at which this building was first erected is not known, but it is supposed to have been repaired about the reign of Henry IV. at which time the present windows were probably inserted. The height of the walls to the bottom of the roof is 39 feet. The roof rises 25 feet in the centre.

The few adjoining rooms possess no circumstance of interest, and are at present inhabited by the family of a farmer.

The principal apartments stood between the kitchen and the domestic chapel. One of these was called the *Queen's Chamber*, from Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, who was entertained with much splendour in this mansion. Sir Philip Harcourt was the last of the family who resided at Stanton Harcourt. The estate was settled in jointure on his widow. This lady disposed of the furniture, by sale, in 1688, and suffered the buildings to decay through neglect. Many of the principal rooms, however, were not taken down till about half a century back.

The domestic chapel, with a chamber over part of it, and a tower, containing three apartments one above the other, each thirteen feet square, is likely to endure for many years. The lower part has a flat wooden ceiling, composed of squares, with red and yellow mouldings. The painted ground is blue, with gilded stars in the middle of each compartment. The windows were formerly filled with stained glass, containing armorial bearings.

The tower is thought to have been erected in the reign of Edward IV. though the arch of the largest window rather resembles the style which prevailed in the time of Henry VII. The upper room in this tower yet retains the name of *Pope's Study*. That poet passed a part of two summers in the deserted mansion of Stanton Harcourt, while engaged in translating Homer. His noble friends, the proprietors of the domain, resided, meantime, at the more cheerful neighbouring seat, termed Cockthorpe. There *Gay* was their inmate; and he was nearly the only person who presumed to break occasionally on the great translator's retirement.

The *Church* is a spacious and handsome building, of the cruciform character. The windows in the lower part of the tower are of Saxon architecture; those in the upper division are of a much more recent date. The principal entrance is by a round-

headed arch; on one side of which is a small stone receptacle for Holy-Water. At a small distance is another door, used by the women only; as, from a custom of immemorial standing, they never pass through the same entrance with the men. The nave is evidently, from the concurrence of round-headed windows, a part of the original structure; the other divisions of the building are chiefly of a later date. The windows in the chancel are all of a slender lancet shape.

The church contains several ancient brasses. Under an arch, in the south wall of the chancel, is the tomb of Maud, daughter of John, Lord Grey, of Rotherfield, wife of Sir Thomas de Harcourt, who died in the 17th of Richard II. On the tomb is her effigy, in the costume of that age. Among several memorials unconnected with the Harcourts, is the mural monument of Robert Huntingdon, and his son, Esquires, with a poetical epitaph by Congreve, by no means remarkable for felicity of thought or elegance of expression.

Annexed to the south wall of the chancel is the burial-chapel of the Harcourt family, an ornamented Gothic building, probably of the time of Edward IV. Under the east window, where the altar formerly stood, is a large monument of marble and alabaster, with gilding, to the memory of Sir Philip Harcourt, and his wife, Anne, daughter of Sir William Waller, the Parliamentary general.

On the south side is the monument of Sir Robert Harcourt and his wife Margaret. This Sir Robert was slain by the Staffords of the Lancastrian party, in 1471. He is represented "in his hair; a gorget of mail, and plated armour, strapped at the elbows and wrists, a large hilted sword on the left, and a dagger on the right, the belt charged with oak-leaves. Shoes of scaled armour; the order of the garter on the left leg; and, over all, the mantle of the order, with a rich crape and cordon.

"His lady is in the veiled head-dress, falling back;

has a mantle, a surcoat, and a cordon; long sleeves, fastened in a singular manner at the wrists; and the garter, with the motto in embossed letters, above the elbow of the left arm; her feet are partly wrapped up in her mantle."

Facing this monument is that of Sir Robert Harcourt, grandson of the persons last commemorated. He was standard bearer to the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII. at the battle of Bosworth, and was created a Knight of the Bath, by his successful patron. His effigies are sculptured in plated armour. On the front of the monument are four monks in black, and two angels, holding each a shield. A red rose, at the head, perpetuates the adherence of Sir Robert to the house of Lancaster.

Not far distant is a large mural monument, adorned with flowers, to the memory of Simon, only son of Simon, first Viscount Harcourt. On the tablet is an inscription in Latin, composed by Dr. Friend; below which are the well-known lines by Pope.

After quitting the costly records of departed greatness, our notice is attracted by a simple monumental tribute to a youthful pair, in humble life, whose story created much interest at the time of their decease. On the outside of the south walk is a tablet to the memory of John Hewit, and Sarah Drew, who were killed by lightning on "the last day of July, 1718." The tablet is honoured with this inscription by Pope:

Think not by rig'rous judgment seiz'd
A pair so faithful could expire.
Victims so pure Heav'n saw well pleased
And snatch'd them in celestial fire.

Live well, and fear no sudden fate!
When God calls virtue to the grave.
Alike 'tis justice soon or late,
Mercy alike to kill or save.
Virtue unmov'd can hear the call,
And face the flash that melts the ball.

In a letter, written by Gay, this melancholy event is thus described :—" John Hewit was a well set man, of about twenty-five. Sarah Drew might be called comely rather than beautiful, and was about the same age. They had passed through the various labours of the year together, with the greatest satisfaction. Their love was the talk of the whole neighbourhood, for scandal never affirmed that they had any other views than the lawful possession of each other in marriage. It was that very morning they had obtained the consent of her parents, and it was but till the next week they had to wait to be happy.

" Perhaps, at the first interval of their work, they were now talking of their wedding clothes, and John was suiting several sorts of poppies and field flowers to her complexion, to choose her a hat for the wedding day. While they were thus busied (it was between two and three in the afternoon) the clouds grew black; and such a storm of lightning and thunder ensued, that all the labourers made the best of their way to what shelter the trees and hedges afforded. Sarah was frightened and fell down in a swoon on a heap of barley. John, who never separated from her, sat down by her side, having raked together two or three heaps the better to secure her from the storm.

" Immediately there was heard so loud a crack, as if heaven had split asunder! Every one was now solicitous for the safety of his neighbour; and they called to one another throughout the field; no answer being returned to those who called to our lovers, they stepped to the place where they lay. They perceived the barley all in a smoke, and then spied the faithful pair, John with one arm about Sarah's neck, and the other held over her as if to screen her from the lightning. They were struck dead, and stiffened in this tender posture. Sarah's left eye brow was singed, and there appeared a black spot on her breast. Her lover was all over black; but not the least signs of life were

found in either. Attended by their melancholy companions they were conveyed to the town, and next day were interred in Stanton Harcourt churchyard."

In the neighbourhood of Stanton Harcourt are three large monumental stones, known by the name of the *Devil's Coits*. These, Warton, in his History of Kiddington, supposes were erected to commemorate a battle fought near Bampton, between the British and the Saxons, in the year 614; on which occasion the Saxon princes Cynegils and Cwhiclon slew a great number of the British. At a short distance was a barrow; but this is now destroyed.

END OF TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

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